(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 29 March 2001 (29.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 01/21772 A2

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 9/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/25993

(22) International Filing Date:

21 September 2000 (21.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

 09/400,494
 21 September 1999 (21.09.1999)
 US

 60/210,072
 7 June 2000 (07.06.2000)
 US

 60/221,836
 28 July 2000 (28.07.2000)
 US

 60/227,860
 24 August 2000 (24.08.2000)
 US

(71) Applicant: OMNIGENE BIOPRODUCTS [US/US]; 763(d) Concord Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138 (US).

(72) Inventors: YOCUM, Rogers, R.; 4 Orchard Lane, Lexington, MA 02420 (US). PATTERSON, Thomas, A.; 89

Church Street, North Attleboro, MA 02760 (US). HER-MANN, Theron; 18 Chilhowie Drive, Kinnelon, NJ 07405 (US). PERO, Janice, G.; 20 Solomon Pierce Road, Lexington, MA 02420 (US).

- (74) Agents: HANLEY, Elizabeth, A. et al.; Lahive & Cockfield, LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109 (US).
- (81) Designated States (national): AU, BR, CA, CN, CZ, HU, ID, IL, IN, JP, KR, LT, LV, MX, NO, PL, RU, SG, SK, TR, UA, ZA.
- (84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published:

 Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: METHODS AND MICROORGANISMS FOR PRODUCTION OF PANTO-COMPOUNDS

(57) Abstract: The present invention features methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) using microorganisms in which the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway and/or the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway and/or the coenzymeA biosynthetic pathway has been manipulated. Methods featuring ketopantoate reductase overexpressing microorganisms as well as aspartate ox-decarboxylase overexpressing microorganisms are provided. Methods of producing panto-compounds in a precursor-independent manner and in high yield are described. Recombinant microorganisms, vectors, isolated nucleic acid molecules, genes and gene products useful in practicing the above methodologies are also provided. The present invention also features a previously unidentified microbial pantothenate kinase gene, coaX, as well as methods of producing panto-compounds utilizing microorganisms having modified pantothenate kinase activity. Recombinant microorganisms, vectors, isolatedcoaX nucleic acid molecules and purified CoaX proteins are featured. Also featured are methods for identifying pantothenate kinase modulators utilizing the recombinant microorganisms and/or purified CoaX proteins of the present invention.

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METHODS AND MICROORGANISMS FOR PRODUCTION OF PANTO-COMPOUNDS

Background of the Invention

Pantothenate, also known as pantothenic acid or vitamin B5, is a member of the B complex of vitamins and is a nutritional requirement for mammals, including livestock and humans (e.g., from food sources, as a water soluble vitamin supplement or as a feed additive). In cells, pantothenate is used primarily for the biosynthesis of coenzyme A (CoA) and acyl carrier protein (ACP). These coenzymes function in the metabolism of acyl moieties which form thioesters with the sulfhydryl group of the 4'-phosphopantetheine portion of these molecules. These coenzymes are essential in all cells, participating in over 100 different intermediary reactions in cellular metabolism.

The conventional means of synthesizing pantothenate (in particular, the bioactive D isomer) is *via* chemical synthesis from bulk chemicals, a process which is hampered by excessive substrate cost as well as the requirement for optical resolution of racemic intermediates (*e.g.*, resolution of DL-pantolactone to obtain D-pantolactone for chemical condensation with β-alanine). Accordingly, researchers have recently looked to bacterial or microbial systems that produce enzymes useful in pantothenate biosynthesis processes (as bacteria are themselves capable of synthesizing pantothenate). In particular, bioconversion processes have been evaluated as a means of favoring production of the D isomer of pantothenic acid, *e.g.*, using microorganisms which selectively hydrolyze a DL-pantothenic acid ester to D-pantothenic acid; microorganisms which selectively decompose L-pantolactone resulting in D-pantolactone alone; and microorganisms which selectively hydrolyze DL-pantolactone to D-pantoic acid.

There is still, however, significant need for improved pantothenate production processes, in particular, for processes requiring reduced quantities of substrates and/or less expensive substrates. To this end, methods of direct microbial synthesis have recently been examined as a means of improving D-pantothenate production. In microbes, pantothenate biosynthetis is a multistep pathway resulting in condensation of pantoate (derived from α -ketoisovalerate) and β -alanine to form D-pantothenate. The isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) pathway biosynthetic enzymes, acetohydroxyacid synthetase (the *ilvBN* or *alsS* gene product), acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase (the *ilvC* gene product) and dihydroxyacid dehydratase (the *ilvD* gene product) catalyze the conversion of pyruvate to α -ketoisovalerate. The reactions are further catalyzed by the pantothenate (*pan*) pathway biosynthetic enzymes ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase (the *panB* gene product), ketopantoate reductase (the *panE* gene product), aspartate- α -

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decarboxylase (the *panD* gene product) and pantothenate synthetase (the *panC* gene product).

The genes encoding the enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of pantothenic acid in Salmonella typhimurium and Escherichia coli have recently been identified and characterized (Frodyma and Downs (1998) J. Biol. Chem. 273:5572-5576 and Jackowski (1996) pp. 687-694, In Neidhardt et al (ed.) Escherichia coli and Salmonella: Cellular and Molecular Biology, 2^{nd} ed. Am. Soc. Microbiol. Wash, D.C). In E. coli, for example, the biosynthesis of pantothenic acid consists of four key steps. The first reaction is catalyzed by the panB gene product, ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, and uses the L-valine intermediate α -ketoisovalerate to generate ketopantoate, which is subsequently reduced to pantoate by the panE gene product, ketopantoate reductase. The panD gene product, aspartate- α -decarboxylase, generates β -alanine from aspartate. The panC gene product, pantothenate synthetase, subsequently ligates β -alanine with pantoate to yield D-pantothenate.

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The authors Dusch et al. described the identification of the Corynebacterium glutamicum panD gene and reported that expression of the C. glutamicum panD gene in E. coli yielded a strain producing pantothenate with a specific productivity of 140 ng of pantothenate per mg (dry weight) per hour. (Dusch et al. (1999) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 65:1530-1539).

The authors Sahm and Eggeling have further identified the *Corynebacterium* glutamicum panB and pan C genes and have described a genetically engineered strain of C. glutamicum which overexpresses the panBC genes (Sahm and Eggeling (1999) Appl. Environ. Microbiol. 65:1973-1979). The engineered strain produces pantothenate, however, it was necessary to overexpress the genes responsible for α -ketoisovalerate production in the host organism in order that pantothenic acid production could be detected. Moreover, without the addition of β -alanine, no substantial amounts of pantothenate accumulated with the strain constructed.

Likewise, a method of producing D-pantothenic acid has been described that takes advantage of a sodium salicylate resistant mutant strain of E. coli which produces D-pantothenic acid when cultured in the presence of β -alanine (U.S. Patent No. 5,518,906). Generation of E. coli strains resistant to α -ketoisovaleric acid and/or α -ketobutyric acid, and/or α -aminobutyric acid, and/or β -hydroxyaspartic acid and/or O-methyl-threonine, in addition to salicylic acid, further increased pantothenic acid production. Moreover, transformation of a plasmid DNA carrying the panB, panC and panD genes into the salicylic acid resistant mutant strain resulted in increased pantothenate production, however, up to 20 g/L β -alanine or more was fed in the examples given. The panB-panC-panD genes are clustered on the E. coli chromosome.

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Finally, a method of producing D-pantothenic acid has been described which utilizes a salicylic acid-resistant, α-ketoisovalerate-resistant, α-ketobutyrate-resistant, β-hydroxyaspartate-resistant, o-methylthreonine-resistent *E. coli* strain transformed with pantothenate biosynthesis gene-containing DNA fragments and/or branched amino acid biosynthesis gene-containing DNA fragments and cultured in the presence of β-alanine (U.S. Patent No. 5,932,457).

Pantothenate production in bacteria results from the condensation of pantoate and β-alanine and involves the pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase (the panB gene product), ketopantoate reductase (the panE gene product), aspartate-α-decarboxylase (the panD gene product) and pantothenate synthetase (the panC gene product). Although pantothenate is biologically active as a vitamin, it is further metabolized in all cells to Coenzyme A (CoA) which participates as an acyl group carrier in the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, fatty acid metabolism and numerous other reactions of intermediary metabolism. The initial (and possibly ratecontrolling) step in the conversion of pantothenate to Coenzyme A (CoA) is phosphorylation of pantothenate by pantothenate kinase. A pantothenate kinase activity was first identified in Salmonella typhimurium by screening for temperature-sensitive mutants which synthesized CoA at permissive temperatures but excreted pantothenate at non-permissive temperatures. The mutations were mapped in the Salmonella chromosome and the genetic locus was designated coaA. The gene encodes the enzyme that catalyzes the first step in the biosynthesis of coenzyme A from pantothenate (Dunn and Snell (1979) J. Bacteriol. 140:805-808). Escherichia coli temperature sensitive mutants have also been isolated and characterized (Vallari and Rock (1987) J. Bacteriol. 169:5795-5800). These mutants (named coaA15(Ts)) are defective in the conversion of pantothenate to CoA and further exhibit a temperature-sensitive growth phenotype, indicating that pantothenate kinase activity is essential for growth. Moreover, it was noted that CoA inhibited pantothenate kinase activity to the same degree in the mutant as compared to the wild-type enzyme.

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Feedback resistant *E. coli* mutants (named *coaA16(Fr)*) have also been isolated that posses a pantothenate kinase activity that is refractory to feedback inhibition by CoA (Vallari and Jackowski (1988) *J. Bacteriol.* 170:3961-3966). The mutation responsible for the reversion is, suprisingly, not genetically linked to the *coaA* gene by transduction. Additional data described therein support the view that the total cellular CoA content is controlled by both modulation of biosynthesis at the pantothenate kinase step and possibly by degradation of CoA to 4'-phosphopantetheine.

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The wild-type *E. coli coaA* gene was cloned by functional complementation of *E. coli* temperature-sensitive mutants. The sequence of the wild-type gene was determined (Song and Jackowski (1992) *J. Bacteriol.* 174:6411-6417 and Flamm *et al.* (1988) *Gene (Amst.)* 74:555-558). Strains containing multiple copies of the *coaA* gene possessed 76-fold higher specific activity of pantothenate kinase, however, there was only a 2.7-fold increase in the steady state level of CoA (Song and Jackowski, *supra*). It has further been reported that the prokaryotic enzyme (encoded by *coaA* in *E. coli* and a variety of other microorganisms) is feedback inhibited by CoA both *in vivo* and *in vitro* with CoA being about five times more potent than acetyl-CoA in inhibiting the enzyme (*Song and Jackowski, supra* and Vallari *et al., supra*). Moreover, it has been reported that the *panB* gene product in *E. coli* is inhibited by CoA (Powers and Snell (1976) *J. Biol. Chem.* 251:3786-3793). These data further support the view that feedback inhibition of pantothenate kinase activity is a critical factor controlling intracellular CoA concentration.

Using standard search and alignment tools, coaA homologues have been identified in Hemophilus influenzae, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Vibrio cholerae, Streptococcus pyogenes and Bacillus subtilis. By contrast, proteins with significant similarity could not be identified in eukaryotic cells including Saccharomyces cerevisiae or in mammalian expressed sequence tag (EST) databases. Using a genetic selection strategy, a cDNA encoding pantothenate kinase activity has recently been identified from Aspergillus nidulans (Calder et al. (1999) J. Biol. Chem. 274:2014-2020). The eukaryotic pantothenate kinase gene (panK) has distinct primary structure and unique regulatory properties that clearly distinguish it from its prokaryotic counterpart. A mammalian pantothenate kinase gene (mpanKla) has also been isolated which encodes a protein having homology to the A. nidulans PanK protein and to the predicted gene product of GenBankTM Accession Number 927798 identified in the S. cerevisiae genome (Rock et al. (2000) J. Biol. Chem. 275:1377-1383).

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is based, at least in part, on the discovery of key enzyme-encoding genes of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway in *Bacillus subtilis*. In particular, the present inventors have identified the *panE* gene of *B. subtilis*. Overexpression or deregulation of the *panE* gene in *B. subtilis* results in enhanced production of the *panE* gene product, ketopantoate reductase, further resulting in increased production of pantothenate. Likewise, mutations in this gene reduce pantothenate production in *B. subtilis* >90%. The present inventors have further identified the presumptive *panBCD* operon in *B. subtilis*, overexpression or

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deregulation of which results in increased pantothenate production. The present inventors have further demonstrated that overexpression or deregulation of the *panD* gene in *B. subtilis* (resulting in enhanced production of the *panD* gene product, aspartate-α-decarboxylase) further results in increased production of pantothenate, in particular, in combination with deregulation of genes encoding key enzymes of the isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) biosynthetic pathway.

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Accordingly, the present invention features methods of producing pantothenate. as well as other compounds of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway (e.g., ketopantoate, pantoate and β-alanine), termed "panto-compounds" herein, using microorganisms in which the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway and/or isoleucinevaline biosynthetic pathway has been manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced. In one embodiment, the invention features a method of producing a panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate or pantoate) that involves culturing a microorganism which overexpresses the panE gene product, ketopantoate reductase, also referred to herein as a ketopantoate reductase-overexpressing or "KPAR-O" microorganism, under conditions such that the panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate or pantoate) is produced. In another embodiment, the present invention features a method of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate or pantoate) which includes culturing a microorganism which overexpresses at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme (e.g., at least one of the panB, panC or panD gene products), preferably in a KPAR-O microorganism, under conditions such that the panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate or pantoate) is produced.

Yet another aspect of the invention features methods of producing panto-compounds which are independent of the need to feed precursors (e.g., β -alanine or aspartate and/or α -ketoisovalerate or valine). In one embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of precursor feed that includes culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing ($A\alpha D$ -O) microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of precursor feed that includes culturing an $A\alpha D$ -O microorganism having a deregulated pantothenate (pan) pathway and a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway, under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of aspartate or β -alanine feed that includes culturing an $A\alpha D$ -O microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of valine or α -ketoisovalerate feed that includes

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culturing a microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) biosynthetic pathway under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In yet another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method for producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a significantly high yield (*e.g.*, at a level greater than 10 g/L, 20 g/L, 30 g/L or 40g/L).

The methods of the present invention further feature microorganisms that overexpresses acetohydroxyacid synthetase or acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase (e.g., microorganisms transformed with a vector that includes an ilvBNC nucleic acid sequence), microorganisms that overexpresses dihydroxyacid dehydratase (e.g., microorganisms transformed with a vector that includes an ilvD nucleic acid sequence), microorganisms that overexpresses aspartate-α-decarboxylase (e.g., microorganisms transformed with a vector that includes a panD nucleic acid sequence), microorganisms having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) biosynthetic pathway and microorganisms having a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway (e.g., microorganisms that overexpress any of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase and aspartate-α-decarboxylase, for example, microorganisms transformed with a vector comprising a panBCD nucleic acid sequence or a vector comprising a panE1 nucleic acid sequence). In one embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is Gram positive (e.g., microorganisms belonging to the genus Bacillus, Cornyebacterium, Lactobacillus, Lactococci or Streptomyces). In another embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is Gram negative. Particularly preferred is a Bacillus recombinant microorganism (e.g., Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus pumilus, Bacillus halodurans, and the like). Recombinant vectors that contain the genes encoding Bacillus pantothenate and/or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., B. subtilis pantothenate and/or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzymes) are also described.

Also featured are methods of producing β -alanine that include culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism under conditions such that β -alanine is produced and methods of producing β -alanine that involve contacting a composition comprising aspartate with an isolated *Bacillus* aspartate- α -decarboxylase enzyme under conditions such that β -alanine is produced.

The production methods of the present invention further can include recovering the panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate or pantoate).

The present invention further features recombinant microorganisms (e.g., $A\alpha D$ -O microorganisms, microorganisms having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway, microorganisms overexpressing at least one of ketopantoate

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hydroxymethyltransferase (the *panB* gene product), pantothenate synthetase (the *panC* gene product), aspartate-α-decarboxylase (the *panD* gene product), ketopantoate reductase (the *panE1* gene product) and microorganisms having a deregulated *panBCD* operon. Also featured are *panB*, *panC*, *panD*, *panE*, *ilvB*, *ilvN*, *alsS*, *ilvC*, and/or *ilvD* nucleic acid molecules, as well as vectors including such nucleic acid molecules and gene products encoded by such nucleic acid molecules.

The methodology of the present invention further includes, for example in addition to overexpressing at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme, deleting or mutating a second pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme, said second pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme preferably being downstream of the desired product in the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway. For example, mutating panC, in addition to overexpressing the panE gene product, results in even further enhanced or increased production of pantoate. Accordingly, in one embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantoate which includes culturing a microorganism which overexpresses the panE gene product and which has a deletion in the panC gene. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantoate which includes culturing a microorganism which overexpresses the panE gene product and/or panB gene product and which has a deletion in the panC gene. Other exemplary embodiments include a method of producing ketopantoate which includes culturing a microorganism which overexpresses the panB gene product and which has a deletion in the panE gene and a method of producing β -alanine which includes culturing a microorganism which overexpresses the panD gene product and which has a deletion in the panC gene. Also included are methods of producing panto-compounds which include overexpressing at least one valine biosynthetic enzyme in a microorganism which has at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme deleted.

The present invention is also based at least in part, on the identification and characterization of a previously unidentified microbial pantothenate kinase gene, coaX. CoaX was first identified in Bacillus subtilis and corresponds to an open reading frame in a portion of the chromosomal DNA that includes the 5' end of the fisH gene, and all of the yacB, yacC, yacD, cysK and pabB genes. The present inventors have demonstrated that the yacB open reading frame encodes a novel pantothenate kinase activity, the gene being unrelated by homology to any previously known pantothenate kinase gene. The gene has been renamed coaX, as it encodes the enzyme which catalyzes the first step in the pathway from pantothenate to CoaA.

Accordingly, the present invention features new and improved methods of producing pantothenate and other key compounds of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway (e.g., panto-compounds) utilizing microorganisms having modified

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pantothenate kinase activity. In particular, the present invention features recombinant microorganisms that contain the coaX gene or that contain a mutant coaX gene, having reduced pantothenate kinase activity. In one embodiment, the invention features such recombinant microorganisms further having a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway. In another embodiment, the invention features such recombinant microorganisms further having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway. In a preferred embodiment, the microorganisms belong to the genus Bacillus (e.g., B. subtilis).

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The present invention also features recombinant microorganisms (e.g., microorganisms belonging to the genus Bacillus, for example, B. subtilis) that contain the coaA gene or that contain a mutant coaA gene, optionally including a coaX gene or mutant thereof, having reduced pantothenate kinase activity. In one embodiment, the invention features such recombinant microorganisms further having a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway or having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway.

Also featured are vectors that contain isolated coaX or coaA genes as well as mutant coaX and/or coaA genes. Isolated nucleic acid molecules that contain isolated coaX genes or mutant coaX genes are featured in addition to isolated CoaX proteins and mutant CoaX proteins.

The nucleic acids, vectors and recombinant microorganisms described above are particularly useful in the methodologies of the present invention. In particular, the invention features methods of enhancing panto-compound production (e.g., ketopantoate, pantoate and or pantothenate production) that include culturing a recombinant microorganism having a mutant coaX gene under conditions such that panto-compound production is enhanced. In one embodiment, the recombinant microorganism further includes a mutant coaA gene. In another embodiment, the recombinant microorganism further includes a mutant avtA and/or mutant ilvE gene and/or mutant ansB gene and/or mutant alsD gene. Also featured are methods for identifying pantothenate modulators utilizing the recombinant microorganisms and purified CoaX proteins of the present invention.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following detailed description and claims.

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Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a schematic representation of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway.

Figure 2 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN240, containing sequences ligated upstream of the $P_{26}panBCD$ cassette, equivalent to the integrated version in strain PA221.

Figure 3A is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN004, containing the panBCD operon expressed from P_{26} and RBS1.

Figure 3B is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN006, containing the panBCD operon expressed from P_{26} and RBS2.

Figure 4 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN236, containing an integratable and amplifiable P_{26} -RBS2-panE1 expression cassette.

Figure 5 is a schematic representation of the construction of plasmid pAN423.

Figure 6 is a schematic representation of the construction of plasmids pAN426 and pAN427.

Figure 7 is a schematic representation of the construction of plasmids pAN428 and pAN429.

Figure 8 is a schematic representation of the construction of plasmid pAN431.

Figure 9 is a schematic representation of the construction of plasmid pAN441.

Figure 10 is a schematic representation of the construction of plasmid pAN440.

Figure 11 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN251 designed to integrate a single copy of a P_{26} -panE1 cassette at the panE1 locus by double crossover.

Figure 12 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN267 designed to integrate a single copy of a P_{26} -ilvBNC cassette at the amyE locus.

Figure 13 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN257, a clone of Bacillus subtilis ilvD in a low copy vector.

Figure 14 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN263, designed to integrate a single copy of a P_{26} -ilvD cassette at the ilvD locus.

Figure 15 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN261, designed to disrupt the Bacillus subtilis ilvD gene with the cat gene.

Figure 16 is a schematic representation of the Coenzyme A biosynthetic pathway in E. coli.

Figure 17 is a schematic representation of the structure of pAN296, a plasmid designed to delete most of the B. subtilis coaA gene and substitute a chloramphenicol resistance gene.

Figure 18 is a schematic representation of the structure of the Bacillus subtilis genome in the region of the coaA gene. The scale is in base pairs and the significant open reading frames are shown by open arrows.

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Figure 19 is a schematic representation of the plasmid pAN281, a plasmid for expressing Bacillus subtilis coaA after integration at the bpr locus.

Figure 20A-B depicts a multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of the amino acid sequences encoded by six known or predicted microbial coaA genes. SEQ ID NOs:4-6 and 1-3 correspond to the amino acid sequences of Mycobacterium leprae (SwissProtTM Accession No. Q9X795), Mycobacterium tuberculosis (SwissProtTM Accession No. O53440), Streptomyces coelicolor (SwissProtTM Accession No. O86799), Haemophilus influenzae (SwissProtTM Accession No. P44793), Escherichia coli SwissProtTM Accession No. P15044) and Bacillus subtilis (SwissProtTM Accession No. P54556), respectively. The alignment was generated using ClustalW MSA software at the GenomeNet CLUSTALW Server at the Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University. The following parameters were used: Pairwise Alignment, K-tuple (word) size = 1, Window size = 5, Gap Penalty = 3, Number of Top Diagonals = 5, Scoring Method = Percent; Multiple Alignment, Gap Open Penalty = 10, Gap Extension Penalty = 0.0, Weight Transition = No, Hydrophilic residues = Gly, Pro, Ser, Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Arg and Lys, Hydrophobic Gaps = Yes; and Scoring Matrix = BLOSUM.

Figure 21 is a schematic representation of the structure of the Bacillus subtilis genome in the region of the coaX (yacB) gene. The scale is in base pairs, the significant open reading frames are shown by open arrows and certain predicted restriction fragments are indicated by thick bars.

Figure 22 is a schematic representation of the structure of pAN341 and pAN342, two independent PCR-derived clones of B. subtilis yacB (remaned herein as coaX).

Figure 23A-D depicts a multiple sequence alignment (MSA) of the amino acid sequences encoded by fourteen known or predicted microbial coaX genes. SEQ ID

NOs:9, 74, 7-8, 75, 11, 10 and 12-18 correspond to the amino acid sequences of Bacillus subtilis (SwissProtTM Accession No. P37564), Clostridium acetobulyticum (WITTM Accession No. RCA03301, Argonne National Laboratories), Streptomyces coelicolor (PIRTM Accession No. T36391), Mycobacterium tuberculosis (SwissProtTM Accession No. O06282), Rhodobacter capsulatus (WITTM Accession No. RRC02473),

Desulfovibrio vulgaris (DBJTM Accession No. BAA21476.1), Deinococcus radiodurans (SwissProtTM Accession No. Q9RX54), Thermotoga maritima (GenBankTM Accession No. AAD35964.1), Treponema pallidum (SwissProtTM Accession No. O83446), Borrelia burgdorferi (SwissProtTM Accession No.O51477), Aquifex aeolicus (SwissProtTM Accession No. O67753), Synechocystis sp. (SwissProtTM Accession No. O74045), Helicobacter pylori (SwissProtTM Accession No. O25533), and Bordetella

pertussis (SwissProtTM Accession No. Q45338), respectively. The alignment was

generated using ClustalW MSA software at the GenomeNet CLUSTALW Server at the

Institute for Chemical Research, Kyoto University. The following parameters were used: Pairwise Alignment, K-tuple (word) size = 1, Window size = 5, Gap Penalty = 3, Number of Top Diagonals = 5, Scoring Method = Percent; Multiple Alignment, Gap Open Penalty = 10, Gap Extension Penalty = 0.0, Weight Transition = No, Hydrophilic residues = Gly, Pro, Ser, Asn, Asp, Gln, Glu, Arg and Lys, Hydrophobic Gaps = Yes; and Scoring Matrix = BLOSUM.

Figure 24 depicts a multiple sequence alignment of a portion of the protein sequences of the coaA gene products from the following microorganisms: Bacillus subtilis, Escherichia coli, Haemophilus influenzae, Mycobacterium leprae, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and Streptomyces coelicolor. The residues that are mutated in E. coli coaA15(Ts) and B. subtilis coaA282A are indicated below and above the alignment, respectively. The portions correspond to amino acid residues 168-187 of SEQ ID NO:3, 167-186 of SEQ ID NO:2, 165-184 of SEQ ID NO:1, 169-188 of SEQ ID NO:4, 169-188 of SEQ ID NO:5 and 179-198 of SEQ ID NO:6, respectively.

Figure 25 is a schematic representation of the structure of pAN294, a plasmid for integrating mutagenized B. subtilis coaA at its native locus.

Figure 26 is a schematic representation of the structure of pAN336, a plasmid designed to delete B. subtilis coaX from its chromosomal locus and replace it with a kanamycin resistence gene.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention features new and improved methods of producing pantothenate and other key compounds of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway (referred to herein as "panto-compounds", for example, pantothenate, ketopantoate, pantoate and β -alanine) using microorganisms in which the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway has been manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced.

The new and improved methodologies of the present invention include methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) in microorganisms having at least one enzyme of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced (e.g., produced at an increased level). For example, the invention features methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) in microorganisms having at least one of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase or aspartate-α-decarboxylase manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced. The methodologies of the present invention also include methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) in microorganisms having at least one

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valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme, described herein, manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced. For example, the invention features methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) in microorganisms having at least one of acetohydroxyacid synthetase, acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase or dihydroxyacid dehydratase manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced.

The invention also features methods of producing panto-compounds that involve culturing a ketopantoate reductase-overexpressing (KPAR-O) microorganism under conditions such that the panto-compound is produced. The invention also features methods of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of precursor feed that involve culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. Also featured are β -alanine independent high yield pantothenate production methods as well as methods of producing β -alanine. The present invention also features methods for enhancing production of panto-compounds that involve culturing pantothenate kinase mutants. In particular, the present invention features new and improved methods of producing pantothenate and other key compounds of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway (e.g., panto-compounds) utilizing microorganisms having modified pantothenate kinase activity, for example, microorganisms that include the coaX gene or that include a mutant coaX gene, having reduced pantothenate kinase activity.

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In order that the present invention may be more readily understood, certain terms are first defined herein.

The term "pantothenate biosynthetic pathway" includes the biosynthetic pathway involving pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., polypeptides encoded by biosynthetic enzyme-encoding genes), compounds (e.g., precursors, substrates, intermediates or products), cofactors and the like utilized in the formation or synthesis of pantothenate. The term "pantothenate biosynthetic pathway" includes the biosynthetic pathway leading to the synthesis of pantothenate in a microorganisms (e.g., in vivo) as well as the biosynthetic pathway leading to the synthesis of pantothenate in vitro. Figure 1 includes a schematic representation of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway. Pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes are depicted in bold and their corresponding genes indicated in italics.

The term "pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme" includes any enzyme utilized in the formation of a compound (e.g., intermediate or product) of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway. According to Figure 1, synthesis of pantoate from α -ketoisovalerate (α -KIV) proceeds via the intermediate, ketopantoate. Formation of ketopantoate is catalyzed by the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme ketopantoate

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hydroxymethyltransferase (the *panB* gene product). Formation of pantoate is catalyzed by the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme ketopantoate reductase (the *panE* gene product). Synthesis of β -alanine from aspartate is catalyzed by the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme aspartate- α -decarboxylase (the *panD* gene product). Formation of pantothenate from pantoate and β -alanine (*e.g.*, condensation) is catalyzed by the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme pantothenate synthetase (the *panC* gene product).

The term "isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway" includes the biosynthetic pathway involving isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., polypeptides encoded by biosynthetic enzyme-encoding genes), compounds (e.g., precursors, substrates, intermediates or products), cofactors and the like utilized in the formation or synthesis of conversion of pyruvate to valine or isoleucine. The term "isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway" includes the biosynthetic pathway leading to the synthesis of valine or isoleucine in a microorganisms (e.g., in vivo) as well as the biosynthetic pathway leading to the synthesis of valine or isoleucine in vitro. Figure 1 includes a schematic representation of the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway. Isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzymes are depicted in bold italics and their corresponding genes indicated in italics

The term "isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme" includes any enzyme utilized in the formation of a compound (e.g., intermediate or product) of the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway. According to Figure 1, synthesis of valine from pyruvate proceeds via the intermediates, acetolactate, α,β -dihydroxyisovalerate (α,β -DHIV) and α -ketoisovalerate (α -KIV). Formation of acetolactate from pyruvate is catalyzed by the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme acetohydroxyacid synthetase (the ilvBN gene product, or alternatively, the alsS gene product). Formation of α,β -DHIV from acetolactate is catalyzed by the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme acetohydroxyacidisomero reductase (the ilvC gene product). Synthesis of α -KIV from α,β -DHIV is catalyzed by the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme dihydroxyacid dehydratase (the ilvD gene product). Moreover, valine and isoleucine can be interconverted by branched chain amino acid transaminases.

As used herein, each of ketopantoate, pantoate, β -alanine and pantothenate are "panto-compounds". The term "panto-compound" includes a compound (e.g., a substrate, intermediate or product) in the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway which is downstream from a particular pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme. In one example, a panto-compound is downstream of the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase (the panB gene product) and can include ketopantoate, pantoate and/or pantothenate. In another example, a panto-compound is downstream of the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme ketopantoate reductase (the panE gene product)

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and can include pantoate and/or pantothenate. In yet another example, a panto-compound is downstream of the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme pantothenate synthetase (the panC gene product) and can include pantothenate. In yet another example, a panto-compound is downstream of the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme aspartate- α -decarboxylase (the panD gene product) and can include β -alanine and/or pantothenate.

Preferred panto-compounds include pantothenate and pantoate. The term "pantothenate" includes the free acid form of pantothenate, also referred to as "pantothenic acid" as well as any salt thereof (e.g., derived by replacing the acidic hydrogen of pantothenate or pantothenic acid with a cation, for example, calcium, sodium, potassium, ammonium), also referred to as a "pantothenate salt". The term "panto-compound" also includes alcohol derivatives of pantothenate. Preferred pantothenate salts are calcium pantothenate or sodium pantothenate. A preferred alcohol derivative is pantothenol. Pantothenate salts and/or alcohols of the present invention include salts and/or alcohols prepared via conventional methods from the free acids described herein. In another embodiment, calcium pantothenate is synthesized directly by a microorganism of the present invention. A pantothenate salt of the present invention can likewise be converted to a free acid form of pantothenate or pantothenic acid by conventional methodology.

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The term "pantoate" includes the free acid form of pantoate, also referred to as "pantoic acid" as well as any salt thereof (e.g., derived by replacing the acidic hydrogen of pantoate or pantoic acid with a cation, for example, calcium, sodium, potassium, ammonium), also referred to as a "pantoate salt". Preferred pantoate salts are calcium pantoate or sodium pantoate. Pantoate salts of the present invention include salts prepared via conventional methods from the free acids described herein. A pantoate salt of the present invention can likewise be converted to a free acid form of pantoate or pantoic acid by conventional methodology. Moreover, a free acid form of pantoate or pantoic acid can be converted to pantolactone by conventional methodology.

The term "CoA biosynthetic pathway" includes the biosynthetic pathway involving CoA biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., polypeptides encoded by biosynthetic enzyme-encoding genes), compounds (e.g., precursors, substrates, intermediates or products), cofactors and the like utilized in the formation or synthesis of CoA from pantothenate. A schematic representation of the CoA biosynthetic pathway in E. coli is set forth as Figure 16. (The pathway depicted is also presumed to be that utilized by other microorganisms.) The term "CoA biosynthetic pathway" includes the biosynthetic pathway leading to the synthesis of CoA in microorganisms (e.g., in vivo) as well as the biosynthetic pathway leading to the synthesis of CoA in vitro. The term "Coenzyme A

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or CoA biosynthetic enzyme" includes any enzyme utilized in the formation of a compound (e.g., intermediate or product) of the CoA biosynthetic pathway, for example, the coaA, panK or coaX gene product which catalyzes the phosphorylation of pantothenate to form 4'-phosphopantothenate, or the coaD gene product which catalyzes the conversion of 4'-phosphopantetheine to dephosphocoenzyme A.

I. Recombinant Microorganisms and Methods for Culturing Microorganisms Such That Panto-Compounds are Produced

The methodologies of the present invention feature microorganisms, e.g., 10 recombinant microorganisms, preferably including vectors or genes (e.g., wild-type and/or mutated genes) as described herein and/or cultured in a manner which results in the production of a desired product (e.g. a panto-compound or panto-compounds). The term "recombinant" microorganism includes a microorganism (e.g., bacteria, yeast cell, fungal cell, etc.) which has been genetically altered, modified or engineered (e.g., genetically engineered) such that it exhibits an altered, modified or different genotype 15 and/or phenotype (e.g., when the genetic modification affects coding nucleic acid sequences of the microorganism) as compared to the naturally-occurring microorganism from which it was derived. Preferably, a "recombinant" microorganism of the present invention has been genetically engineered such that it overexpresses at least one 20 bacterial gene or gene product (e.g., a pantothenate or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme encoding-gene) as described herein, preferably a biosynthetic enzyme encodinggene included within a recombinant vector as described herein and/or a biosynthetic enzyme expressed from a recombinant vector. The ordinary skilled will appreciate that a microorganism expressing or overexpressing a gene product produces or overproduces 25 the gene product as a result of expression or overexpression of nucleic acid sequences and/or genes encoding the gene product.

The term "manipulated microorganism" includes a microorganism that has been engineered (e.g., genetically engineered) or modified such that the microorganism has at least one enzyme of the pantothenate biosynthetic pathway and/or at least one enzyme of the isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway modified such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced. Modification or engineering of such microorganisms can be according to any methodology described herein including, but not limited to, deregulation of a biosynthetic pathway and/or overexpression of at least one biosynthetic enzyme. A "manipulated" enzyme (e.g., a "manipulated" biosynthetic enzyme) includes an enzyme, the expression or production of which has been altered or modified such that at least one upstream or downstream precursor, substrate or product

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of the enzyme is altered or modified, for example, as compared to a corresponding wildtype or naturally occurring enzyme.

The term "overexpressed" or "overexpression" includes expression of a gene product (e.g., a pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme) at a level greater than that expressed prior to manipulation of the microorganism or in a comparable microorganism which has not been manipulated. In one embodiment, the microorganism can be genetically manipulated (e.g., genetically engineered) to overexpress a level of gene product greater than that expressed prior to manipulation of the microorganism or in a comparable microorganism which has not been manipulated. Genetic manipulation can include, but is not limited to, altering or modifying regulatory sequences or sites associated with expression of a particular gene (e.g., by adding strong promoters, inducible promoters or multiple promoters or by removing regulatory sequences such that expression is constitutive), modifying the chromosomal location of a particular gene, altering nucleic acid sequences adjacent to a particular gene such as a ribosome binding site or transcription terminator, increasing the copy number of a particular gene, modifying proteins (e.g., regulatory proteins, suppressors, enhancers, transcriptional activators and the like) involved in transcription of a particular gene and/or translation of a particular gene product, or any other conventional means of deregulating expression of a particular gene routine in the art (including but not limited to use of antisense nucleic acid molecules, for example, to block expression of repressor proteins).

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In another embodiment, the microorganism can be physically or environmentally manipulated to overexpress a level of gene product greater than that expressed prior to manipulation of the microorganism or in a comparable microorganism which has not been manipulated. For example, a microorganism can be treated with or cultured in the presence of an agent known or suspected to increase transcription of a particular gene and/or translation of a particular gene product such that transcription and/or translation are enhanced or increased. Alternatively, a microorganism can be cultured at a temperature selected to increase transcription of a particular gene and/or translation of a particular gene product such that transcription and/or translation are enhanced or increased.

The term "deregulated" or "deregulation" includes the alteration or modification of at least one gene in a microorganism that encodes an enzyme in a biosynthetic pathway, such that the level or activity of the biosynthetic enzyme in the microorganism is altered or modified. Preferably, at least one gene that encodes an enzyme in a biosynthetic pathway is altered or modified such that the gene product is enhanced or increased. The phrase "deregulated pathway" can also include a biosynthetic pathway in

which more than one gene that encodes an enzyme in a biosynthetic pathway is altered or modified such that the level or activity of more than one biosynthetic enzyme is altered or modified. The ability to "deregulate" a pathway (e.g., to simultaneously deregulate more than one gene in a given biosynthetic pathway) in a microorganism arises from the particular phenomenon of microorganisms in which more than one enzyme (e.g., two or three biosynthetic enzymes) are encoded by genes occurring adjacent to one another on a contiguous piece of genetic material termed an "operon".

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The term "operon" includes a coordinated unit of gene expression that contains a promoter and possibly a regulatory element associated with one or more, preferably at least two, structural genes (e.g., genes encoding enzymes, for example, biosynthetic enzymes). Expression of the structural genes can be coordinately regulated, for example, by regulatory proteins binding to the regulatory element or by anti-termination of transcription. The structural genes can be transcribed to give a single mRNA that encodes all of the structural proteins. Due to the coordinated regulation of genes included in an operon, alteration or modification of the single promoter and/or regulatory element can result in alteration or modification of each gene product encoded by the operon. Alteration or modification of the regulatory element can include, but is not limited to removing the endogenous promoter and/or regulatory element(s), adding strong promoters, inducible promoters or multiple promoters or removing regulatory sequences such that expression of the gene products is modified, modifying the chromosomal location of the operon, altering nucleic acid sequences adjacent to the operon or within the operon such as a ribosome binding site, increasing the copy number of the operon, modifying proteins (e.g., regulatory proteins, suppressors, enhancers, transcriptional activators and the like) involved in transcription of the operon and/or translation of the gene products of the operon, or any other conventional means of deregulating expression of genes routine in the art (including but not limited to use of antisense nucleic acid molecules, for example, to block expression of repressor proteins). Deregulation can also involve altering the coding region of one or more genes to yield, for example, an enzyme that is feedback resistant or has a higher or lower specific activity.

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A particularly preferred "recombinant" microorganism of the present invention has been genetically engineered to overexpress a bacterially-derived gene or gene product. The term "bacterially-derived" or "derived-from", for example bacteria, includes a gene which is naturally found in bacteria or a gene product (e.g., ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase, aspartate-α-decarboxylate, acetohydroxyacid synthetase, acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase or

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dihydroxyacid dehydratase) which is encoded by a bacterial gene (e.g., encoded by panB, panE, panC, panD, ilvB, ilvN, alsS, ilvC, or ilvD).

The methodologies of the present invention feature recombinant microorganisms which overexpress at least one of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase or aspartate-α-decarboxylase. A particularly preferred recombinant microorganism of the present invention has been genetically engineered to overexpress a Bacillus (e.g., Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus halodurans, Bacillus subtilis, and Bacillus pumilus, etc.) biosynthetic enzyme (e.g., has been engineered to overexpress at least one of B. subtilis ketopantoate reductase (the panE gene product) (e.g., ketopantoate reductase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:30 or encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:29), B. subtilis ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase (the panB gene product) (e.g., ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:24 or encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:23), B. subtilis pantothenate synthetase (the panC gene product) (e.g., pantothenate synthetase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26 or encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25) and/or B. subtilis aspartate-α-decarboxylase (the panD gene product) (e.g., aspartate-αdecarboxylase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:28 or encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27).

In an exemplary embodiment, the invention features a microorganism (e.g., a KPAR-O microorganism) that has been transformed with a vector comprising a panE nucleic acid sequence (e.g., a panE nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:29). In another embodiment, the invention features a microorganism that has been transformed with a vector comprising a panB nucleic acid sequence (e.g., a panB nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:23), a vector comprising a panC nucleic acid sequence (e.g., a panC nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:25) or a vector comprising a panD nucleic acid sequence (e.g., a panD nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:27). In yet another embodiment, the invention features a microorganism having a deregulated panBCD operon (e.g., SEQ ID NO:59).

Other preferred "recombinant" microorganisms of the present invention have a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway. The phrase "microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway" includes a microorganism having an alteration or modification in at least one gene encoding an enzyme of the isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway or having an alteration or modification in an operon including more than one gene encoding an enzyme of the isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway. A preferred "microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway" has been

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genetically engineered to overexpress a Bacillus (e.g., B. subtilis) ilv biosynthetic enzyme (e.g., has been engineered to overexpress at least one of acetohydroxyacid synthetase (the ilvBN gene products or the alsS gene product) (e.g., acetohydroxyacid synthetase having subunits having the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:32 and SEQ ID NO:34 or encoded by nucleic acid molecules having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:31 and SEQ ID NO:33 or the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:58 from nucleotides 1-2246 or acetohydroxyacid synthetase encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:86), acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase (the ilvC gene product) (e.g., acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36 or encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:35), dihydroxyacid dehydratase (the ilvD gene product) (e.g., dihydroxyacid dehydratase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:38 or encoded by a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:37), and/or has been transformed with a vector comprising an ilvBNC nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:58, coding regions from nucleotides 1-1725, 1722-2246 and 2263-3291) and/or an ilvD nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:37).

In another preferred embodiment, a recombinant microorganism is designed or engineered such that a mutant CoaA and/or CoaX biosynthetic enzyme is expressed and at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme and/or at least one isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme is overexpressed or deregulated.

In another preferred embodiment, a microorganism of the present invention overexpresses or is mutated for a gene or biosynthetic enzyme (e.g., a CoA biosynthetic enzyme, pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme) which is bacterially-derived. The term "bacterially-derived" or "derived-from", for example bacteria, includes a gene product (e.g., ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase, aspartate-α-decarboxylate, acetohydroxyacid synthetase, acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase, dihydroxyacid dehydratase or pantothenate kinase) which is encoded by a bacterial gene (e.g., panB, panE, panC, panD, ilvBN (or alsS), ilvC, ilvD, or encoded by coaA or coaX).

Still other preferred recombinant microorganisms of the present invention are mutant microorganisms. As used herein, the term "mutant microorganism" includes a recombinant microorganism that has been genetically engineered to express a mutated gene or protein that is normally or naturally expressed by the microorganism.

Preferably, a mutant microorganism expresses a mutated gene or protein such that the microorganism exhibits an altered, modified or different phenotype (e.g., has been engineered to express a mutated CoaA biosynthetic enzyme, for example, pantothenate kinase). In one embodiment, a mutant microorganism is designed or engineered such

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that it includes a mutant coaX gene, as defined herein. In another embodiment, a recombinant microorganism is designed or engineered such that it includes a mutant coaA gene, as defined herein. In another embodiment, a mutant microorganism is designed or engineered such that a coaX gene has been deleted (i.e., the protein encoded by the coaX gene is not produced). In another embodiment, a mutant microorganism is designed or engineered such that a coaA gene has been deleted (i.e., the protein encoded by the coal gene is not produced). Preferably, a mutant microorganism has a mutant coaX gene or a mutant coaA gene, or has been engineered to have a coaX gene and/or coaA deleted, such that that the mutant microorganism encodes a "reduced pantothenate kinase activity". In the context of a whole microorganism, a "reduced pantothenate 10 kinase activity" can be determined by measuring or assaying for a decrease in an intermediate or product of the CoA biosynthetic pathway, for example, measuring or assaying for 4'-phosphopantothenate, 4'-phosphopantothenylcysteine, 4'phosphopantetheine, dephosphocoenzyme A, Coenzyme A, apo-acyl carrier protein (apo-ACP) or holo-acyl carrier protein (ACP) in the microorganism (e.g., in a lysate 15 isolated or derived from the microorganism) or in the medium in which the microorganism is cultured (see e.g., Figure 16). Alternatively, a "reduced pantothenate kinase activity" can be determined by measuring or assaying for decreased growth of the microorganism. Alternatively, a "reduced pantothenate kinase activity" can be determined by measuring or assaying for an increase in a panto-compound (e.g., 20 pantothenate) in the microorganism or surrounding media, as panto-compounds lie upstream of the CoA biosynthetic pathway, the first step of which is catalyzed by pantothenate kinase. The invention also features recombinant microorganisms that, in addition to having reduced pantothenate kinase activity (e.g., expressing mutant coal and/or mutant coaX genes) have a deregulated pantothenate biosynthesis pathway and/or 25 a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) biosynthetic pathway.

In one embodiment, a recombinant microorganism of the present invention is a Gram positive organism (e.g., a microorganism which retains basic dye, for example, crystal violet, due to the presence of a Gram-positive wall surrounding the microorganism). In a preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Bacillus, Cornyebacterium, Lactobacillus, Lactococci and Streptomyces. In a more preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is of the genus Bacillus. In another preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus lentimorbus, Bacillus lentus, Bacillus firmus, Bacillus pantothenticus, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus cereus, Bacillus circulans, Bacillus coagulans, Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus megaterium, Bacillus pumilus,

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Bacillus thuringiensis, and other Group 1 Bacillus species, for example, as characterized by 16S rRNA type (Priest (1993) in Bacillus subtilis and Other Gram-Positive Bacteria eds. Sonenshein et al., ASM, Washington, D.C., p. 6). In another preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is Bacillus brevis or Bacillus stearothermophilus. In another preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus halodurans, Bacillus subtilis, and Bacillus pumilus.

In another embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is a Gram negative (excludes basic dye) organism. In a preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Salmonella, Escherichia, Klebsiella, Serratia, and Proteus. In a more preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is of the genus Escherichia. In an even more preferred embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is Escherichia coli. In another embodiment, the recombinant microorganism is Saccharomyces (e.g., S. cerevisiae).

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An important aspect of the present invention involves culturing the recombinant microorganisms described herein, such that a desired compound (e.g., a desired pantocompound) is produced. The term "culturing" includes maintaining and/or growing a living microorganism of the present invention (e.g., maintaining and/or growing a culture or strain). In one embodiment, a microorganism of the invention is cultured in liquid media. In another embodiment, a microorganism of the invention is cultured in solid media or semi-solid media. In a preferred embodiment, a microorganism of the invention is cultured in media (e.g., a sterile, liquid media) comprising nutrients essential or beneficial to the maintenance and/or growth of the microorganism (e.g., carbon sources or carbon substrate, for example complex carbohydrates such as bean or grain meal, starches, sugars, sugar alcohols, hydrocarbons, oils, fats, fatty acids, organic acids and alcohols; nitrogen sources, for example, vegetable proteins, peptones, peptides and amino acids derived from grains, beans and tubers, proteins, peptides and amino acids derived form animal sources such as meat, milk and animal byproducts such as peptones, meat extracts and casein hydrolysates; inorganic nitrogen sources such as urea, ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium nitrate and ammonium phosphate; phosphorus sources, for example, phosphoric acid, sodium and potassium salts thereof; trace elements, for example, magnesium, iron, manganese, calcium, copper, zinc, boron, molybdenum, and/or cobalt salts; as well as growth factors such as amino acids, vitamins, growth promoters and the like).

Preferably, microorganisms of the present invention are cultured under controlled pH. The term "controlled pH" includes any pH which results in production of the desired product (e.g., a panto-compound). In one embodiment, microorganisms are cultured at a pH of about 7. In another embodiment, microorganisms are cultured at a pH of between 6.0 and 8.5. The desired pH may be maintained by any number of methods known to those skilled in the art.

Also preferably, microorganisms of the present invention are cultured under controlled aeration. The term "controlled aeration" includes sufficient aeration (e.g., oxygen) to result in production of the desired product (e.g., panto-compound). In one embodiment, aeration is controlled by regulating oxygen levels in the culture, for example, by regulating the amount of oxygen dissolved in culture media. Preferably, aeration of the culture is controlled by agitating the culture. Agitation may be provided by a propeller or similar mechanical agitation equipment, by revolving or shaking the growth vessel (e.g., fermentor) or by various pumping equipment. Aeration may be further controlled by the passage of sterile air or oxygen through the medium (e.g., through the fermentation mixture). Also preferably, microorganisms of the present invention are cultured without excess foaming (e.g., via addition of antifoaming agents).

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Moreover, microorganisms of the present invention can be cultured under controlled temperatures. The term "controlled temperature" includes any temperature which results in production of the desired product (e.g., a panto-compound). In one embodiment, controlled temperatures include temperatures between 15°C and 95°C. In another embodiment, controlled temperatures include temperatures between 15°C and 70°C. Preferred temperatures are between 20°C and 55°C, more preferably between 30°C and 45°C or between 30°C and 50°C.

Microorganisms can be cultured (e.g., maintained and/or grown) in liquid media and preferably are cultured, either continuously or intermittently, by conventional culturing methods such as standing culture, test tube culture, shaking culture (e.g., rotary shaking culture, shake flask culture, etc.), aeration spinner culture, or fermentation. In a preferred embodiment, the microorganisms are cultured in shake flasks. In a more preferred embodiment, the microorganisms are cultured in a fermentor (e.g., a fermentation process). Fermentation processes of the present invention include, but are not limited to, batch, fed-batch and continuous methods of fermentation. The phrase "batch process" or "batch fermentation" refers to a closed system in which the composition of media, nutrients, supplemental additives and the like is set at the beginning of the fermentation and not subject to alteration during the fermentation, however, attempts may be made to control such factors as pH and oxygen concentration to prevent excess media acidification and/or microorganism death. The phrase "fed-

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batch process" or "fed-batch" fermentation refers to a batch fermentation with the exception that one or more substrates or supplements are added (e.g., added in increments or continuously) as the fermentation progresses. The phrase "continuous process" or "continuous fermentation" refers to a system in which a defined fermentation media is added continuously to a fermentor and an equal amount of used or "conditioned" media is simultaneously removed, preferably for recovery of the desired product (e.g., panto-compound). A variety of such processes have been developed and are well-known in the art.

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The phrase "culturing under conditions such that a desired compound (e.g., a panto-compound, for example, pantothenate) is produced" includes maintaining and/or growing microorganisms under conditions (e.g., temperature, pressure, pH, duration, etc.) appropriate or sufficient to obtain production of the desired compound or to obtain desired yields of the particular compound being produced. For example, culturing is continued for a time sufficient to produce the desired amount of a panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate, pantoate or β-alanine). Preferably, culturing is continued for a time sufficient to substantially reach maximal production of the panto-compound. In one embodiment, culturing is continued for about 12 to 24 hours. In another embodiment, culturing is continued for about 24 to 36 hours, 36 to 48 hours, 48 to 72 hours, 72 to 96 hours, 96 to 120 hours, 120 to 144 hours, or greater than 144 hours. In another embodiment, culturing is continued for a time sufficient to reach production yields of panto-compound, for example, cells are cultured such that at least about 15 to 20 g/L of panto-compound are produced, at least about 20 to 25 g/L panto-compound are produced, at least about 25 to 30 g/L panto-compound are produced, at least about 30 to 35 g/L panto-compound are produced, at least about 35 to 40 g/L panto-compound are produced (e.g., at least about 37 g/L panto-compound) or at least about 40 to 50 g/L panto compound are produced. In yet another embodiment, microorganisms are cultured under conditions such that a preferred yield of panto-compound, for example, a yield within a range set forth above, is produced in about 24 hours, in about 36 hours, in about 48 hours, in about 72 hours, or in about 96 hours.

The methodology of the present invention can further include a step of recovering a desired compound (e.g., a panto-compound). The term "recovering" a desired compound (e.g., a panto-compound) includes extracting, harvesting, isolating or purifying the compound from culture media. Recovering the compound can be performed according to any conventional isolation or purification methodology known in the art including, but not limited to, treatment with a conventional resin (e.g., anion or cation exchange resin, non-ionic adsorption resin, etc.), treatment with a conventional adsorbent (e.g., activated charcoal, silicic acid, silica gel, cellulose, alumina, etc.),

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alteration of pH, solvent extraction (e.g., with a conventional solvent such as an alcohol, ethyl acetate, hexane and the like), dialysis, filtration, concentration, crystallization, recrystallization, pH adjustment, lyophilization and the like. For example, a compound (e.g., a panto-compound) can be recovered from culture media by first removing the microorganisms from the culture. Media is then passed through or over a cation exchange resin to remove unwanted cations and then through or over an anion exchange resin to remove unwanted inorganic anions and organic acids having stronger acidities than the panto-compound of interest (e.g., pantothenate). The resulting panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate) can subsequently be converted to a pantothenate salt (e.g., calcium pantothenate) as described herein.

Preferably, a desired compound of the present invention is "extracted", "isolated" or "purified" such that the resulting preparation is substantially free of other components (e.g., free of media components and/or fermentation byproducts). The language "substantially free of other components" includes preparations of desired compound in which the compound is separated (e.g., purified or partially purified) from media components or fermentation byproducts of the culture from which it is produced. In one embodiment, the preparation has greater than about 80% (by dry weight) of the desired compound (e.g., less than about 20% of other media components or fermentation byproducts), more preferably greater than about 90% of the desired compound (e.g., less than about 10% of other media components or fermentation byproducts), still more preferably greater than about 95% of the desired compound (e.g., less than about 5% of other media components or fermentation byproducts), and most preferably greater than about 98-99% desired compound (e.g., less than about 1-2% other media components or fermentation byproducts). When the desired compound is a panto-compound that has been derivatized to a salt (e.g. a pantothenate salt or pantoate salt), the panto-compound is preferably further free (e.g., substantially free) of chemical contaminants associated with the formation of the salt. When the desired compound is a panto-compound that has been derivatized to an alcohol, the panto-compound is preferably further free (e.g., substantially free) of chemical contaminants associated with the formation of the alcohol.

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In an alternative embodiment, the desired panto-compound is not purified from the microorganism, for example, when the microorganism is biologically non-hazardous (e.g., safe). For example, the entire culture (or culture supernatant) can be used as a source of product (e.g., crude product). In one embodiment, the culture (or culture supernatant) supernatant is used without modification. In another embodiment, the culture (or culture supernatant) is concentrated. In yet another embodiment, the culture (or culture supernatant) is dried or lyophilized.

II. Panto-Compound Production Methodologies Featuring Ketopantoate Reductase-Overexpressing Microorganisms

One aspect of the invention features methods of producing a panto-compounds that involve culturing a ketopantoate reductase-overexpressing (KPAR-O) microorganism under conditions such that the panto-compound is produced. The term "ketopantoate reductase-overexpressing (KPAR-O) microorganism" includes a microorganism which has been manipulated such that ketopantoate reductase is overexpressed (e.g., a B. subtilis ketopantoate reductase protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:30) and/or has been transformed with a vector comprising a panE1 nucleic acid sequence (e.g., a B. subtilis panE1 nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:29). In one embodiment, the panto-compound is pantothenate. In another embodiment, the panto-compound is pantoate. In another embodiment, the ketopantoate reductase is bacterial-derived. In another embodiemnt, the ketopantoate reductase is derived from Bacillus (e.g., is derived from Bacillus subtilis). In yet another embodiment, the KPAR-O microorganism is Gram positive. In yet another embodiment, the KPAR-O microorganism is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of Bacillus, Cornyebacterium, Lactobacillus, Lactococci and Streptomyces. In a preferred embodiemnt, the KPAR-O microorganism is of the genus Bacillus. In a more preferred embodiment, the KPAR-O microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus halodurans, Bacillus subtilis and Bacillus pumilus. In a particularly preferred embodiemnt, the KPAR-O microorganism is Bacillus subtilis.

In still other embodiments, the KPAR-O microorganism further overexpresses at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme in addition to ketopantoate reductase. In an exemplary embodiment, the KPAR-O microorganism further overexpresses at least one of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, pantothenate synthetase and aspartate-α-decarboxylase. Also featured are methods of producing panto-compounds, for example, methods that involve culturing a KPAR-O microorganism, which further include the step of recovering the panto-compound.

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III. Methods of Producing Panto-Compounds Independent of Precursor Feed Requirements

Depending on the biosynthetic enzyme or combination of biosynthetic enzymes manipulated, it may be desirable or necessary to provide (e.g., feed) microorganisms of the present invention at least one pantothenate biosynthetic precursor such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced. The term "pantothenate biosynthetic precursor" or "precursor" includes an agent or compound which, when

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provided to, brought into contact with, or included in the culture medium of a microorganism, serves to enhance or increase pantothenate biosynthesis. In one embodiment, the pantothenate biosynthetic precursor or precursor is aspartate. In another embodiment, the pantothenate biosynthetic precursor or precursor is β -alanine.

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The amount of aspartate or β-alanine added is preferably an amount that results in a concentration in the culture medium sufficient to enhance productivity of the microorganism (e.g., a concentration sufficient to enhance production of a pantocompound, for example, β-alanine, ketopantoate, pantoate or pantothenate).

Pantothenate biosynthetic precursors of the present invention can be added in the form of a concentrated solution or suspension (e.g., in a suitable solvent such as water or buffer) or in the form of a solid (e.g., in the form of a powder). Moreover, pantothenate biosynthetic precursors of the present invention can be added as a single aliquot, continuously or intermittently over a given period of time.

In yet another embodiment, the pantothenate biosynthetic precursor is valine, see e.g., Example III. In yet another embodiment, the pantothenate biosynthetic precursor is α -ketoisovalerate. Preferably, valine or α -ketoisovalerate is added in an amount that results in a concentration in the medium sufficient for production of the desired product (e.g., panto-compound) to occur. Pantothenate biosynthetic precursors are also referred to herein as "supplemental pantothenate biosynthetic substrates".

Providing pantothenate biosynthetic precursors in the pantothenate biosynthetic methodologies of the present invention, can be associated with high costs, for example, when the methodologies are used to produce high yields of panto-compounds. Accordingly, preferred methodologies of the present invention feature microorganisms having at least one biosynthetic enzyme or combination of biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme and/or valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme) manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are produced in a manner independent of precursor feed. The phrase "a manner independent of precursor feed", for example, when referring to a method for producing a desired compound (e.g., a panto-compound), includes an approach to or a mode of producing the desired compound that does not depend or rely on precursors being provided (e.g., fed) to the microorganism being utilized to produce the desired compound. For example, microorganisms featured in the methodologies of the present invention can be used to produce panto-compounds in a manner requiring no feeding of the precursors aspartate, β-alanine, valine and/or α-KIV.

Alternative preferred methodologies of the present invention feature microorganisms having at least one biosynthetic enzyme or combination of biosynthetic enzymes manipulated such that pantothenate or other desired panto-compounds are

produced in a manner substantially independent of precursor feed. The phrase "a manner substantially independent of precursor feed" includes an approach to or a method of producing the desired compound that depends or relies to a lesser extent on precursors being provided (e.g., fed) to the microorganism being utilized. For example, microorganisms featured in the methodologies of the present invention can be used to produce panto-compounds in a manner requiring feeding of substantially reduced amounts of the precursors aspartate, β-alanine, valine and/or α-KIV. In one embodiment, the invention features methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) in a manner that requires feeding of less than 5%-10% of the amount of precursor required by a control microorganism (e.g., a microorganism that is dependent, for example is wholly dependent, on precursor feed to efficiently produce the desired compound). In another embodiment, the invention features methods of producing panto-compounds in a manner that requires feeding of less than 15-20% of the amount of precursor required by a control microorganism. In another embodiment, the invention features methods of producing panto-compounds in a manner that requires feeding of less than 25-30%, 35-40%, 45-50% or 55-60% of the amount of precursor required by a control microorganism. As described in Examples I-III herein, particular microorganisms featured in the methodologies of the present invention require, for example, 5 g/L of aspartate, β-alanine, valine or α-KIV (e.g., in test tube or in shake flask cultures). Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention features methods of producing panto-compounds (e.g., pantothenate) in a manner requiring feeding of less than 0.25 g/L, 0.5 g/L, 0.75 g/L, 1 g/L, 1.25 g/L, 1.5 g/L, 1.75 g/L, 2 g/L, 2.25 g/L, 2.5 g/L, 2.75 g/L or 3 g/L.

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Preferred methods of producing desired compounds (e.g., panto-compounds) in a manner independent of precursor feed or alternatively, in a manner substantially independent of precursor feed, involve culturing microorganisms which have been manipulated (e.g., designed or engineered, for example, genetically engineered) such that expression of at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme, and/or at least one isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme, is modified. For example, in one embodiment, a microorganism is manipulated (e.g., designed or engineered) such that the production of at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme, and/or at least one isoleucine/valine biosynthetic enzyme is deregulated. In a preferred embodiment, a microorganism is manipulated (e.g., designed or engineered) such that it has a deregulated biosynthetic pathway, for example, a deregulated pantothenate biosynthesis pathway and/or a deregulated isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway, as defined herein. In another preferred embodiment, a microorganism is manipulated (e.g., designed or engineered)

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such that at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme, and/or at least one isoleucinevaline biosynthetic enzyme is overexpressed.

Preferred methods of producing desired compounds (e.g., panto-compounds) in a manner independent of precursor feed or alternatively, in a manner substantially independent of precursor feed, are as follows. In one embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of precursor feed comprising culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of precursor feed comprising culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism having a deregulated pantothenate (pan) pathway and a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway, under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of aspartate or β -alanine feed comprising culturing an aspartate- α decarboxylase-overexpressing (AaD-O) microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced. In yet another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of valine or α-ketoisovalerate feed comprising culturing a microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) biosynthetic pathway under conditions such that pantothenate is produced.

The term "aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism" includes a microorganism which has been manipulated such that aspartate- α -decarboxylase is overexpressed. A preferred "aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism" has been transformed with a vector comprising a *B. subtilis panD* nucleic acid sequence (*e.g.*, a *panD* nucleic acid sequence that encodes an aspartate- α -decarboxylase protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:28, for example, a *panD* nucleic acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:27).

The phrase "microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) pathway" includes a microorganism having an alteration or modification in at least one gene encoding an enzyme of the isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) pathway or having an alteration or modification in an operon including more than one gene encoding an enzyme of the isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) pathway. A preferred "microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) pathway" overexpresses acetohydroxyacid synthetase (*e.g.*, acetohydroxyacid synthetase having subunits having the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:32 and SEQ ID NO:34 or acetohydroxyacid synthetase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:87), acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase (having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36), or dihydroxyacid dehydratase (having the amino acid

sequence of SEQ ID NO:38) and/or has been transformed with a vector comprising *ilvB*, *ilvN*, *ilvC*, *ilvBN*, *ilvBNC* or *alsS* nucleic acid sequences (SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:35, nucleotides 1-2246 of SEQ ID NO:58, SEQ ID NO:58 having coding regions from nucleotides 1-1725, 1722-2246 and 2263-3291, or SEQ ID NO:86, respectively) and/or an *ilvD* nucleic acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:37).

IV. High Yield Production Methodologies

A particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention is a high yield production method for producing pantothenate comprising culturing a manipulated 10 microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a significantly high yield. The phrase "high yield production method", for example, a high yield production method for producing a desired compound (e.g., for producing a pantocompound) includes a method that results in production of the desired compound at a level which is elevated or above what is usual for comparable production methods. Preferably, a high yield production method results in production of the desired 15 compound at a significantly high yield. The phrase "significantly high yield" includes a level of production or yield which is sufficiently elevated or above what is usual for comparable production methods, for example, which is elevated to a level sufficient for commercial production of the desired product (e.g., production of the product at a 20 commercially feasible cost). In one embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 2 g/L. In another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 10 g/L. In 25 another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 20 g/L. In yet another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 30 g/L. In yet another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 40 g/L.

The invention further features a high yield production method for producing a desired compound (e.g., for producing a panto-compound) that involves culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that a sufficiently elevated level of

compound is produced within a commercially desireable period of time. In an exemplary embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 15-20 g/L in 36 hours. In another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 25-30 g/L in 48 hours. In another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 35-40 g/L in 72 hours, for example, greater that 37 g/L in 72 hours. In another embodiment, the invention features a high yield production method of producing pantothenate that includes culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a level greater than 30-40 g/L in 60 hours, for example, greater that 30, 35 or 40 g/L in 60 hours. Values and ranges included and/or intermediate within the ranges set forth herein are also intended to be within the scope of the present invention. For example, pantothenate production at levels of at least 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 g/L in 60 hours are intended to be included within the range of 30-40 g/L in 60 hours. In another example, ranges of 30-35 g/L or 35-40 g/L are intended to be included within the range of 30-40 g/L in 60 hours. Moreover, the skilled artisan will appreciate that culturing a manipulated microorganism to achieve a production level of, for example, "30-40 g/L in 60 hours" includes culturing the microorganism for additional time periods (e.g., time periods longer than 60 hours), optionally resulting in even higher yields of pantothenate being produced.

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V. Panto-Compound Production Methodologies Featuring Pantothenate Kinase Mutant Microorganisms

The present invention relates to methods of producing pantothenate using microorganisms engineered to produce high yields of pantothenate as well as other panto-compounds. Cells overproducing pantothenate result in high intracellular pantothenate levels that could overcome the feedback inhibition of pantothenate kinase by CoA, leading to overproduction of CoA. Besides consuming pantothenate, increased synthesis of CoA may cause increased feedback inhibition of the PanB, PanD, PanE or PanC reaction, thereby limiting pantothenate production. Accordingly, a reduction in pantothenate kinase activity may lead to a decrease in CoA levels with resulting increases in PanB, PanD, PanE or PanC activity and pantothenate production.

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Thus, certain methodologies of the present invention are based, at least in part, on the identification and characterization of the *B. subtilis coaA* gene and the demonstration that the gene is neither essential for *B. subtilis* growth (*i.e.*, deletion of the coaA gene from the chromosome of *B. subtilis* is not a lethal event) nor for pantothenate kinase activity in *B. subtilis*. A second pantothenate kinase-encoding gene has been identified and characterized in *B. subtilis*, and is termed "coaX". This gene complements an *E. coli* mutant that contains a temperature sensitive pantothenate kinase and is not related by homology to any previously known pantothenate kinase gene.

In one aspect, the methodologies of the invention feature recombinant microorganisms that include the *coaX* gene or that include a mutant *coaX* gene, having reduced pantothenate kinase activity. In one embodiment, the methodologies feature such recombinant microorganisms further having a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway. In another embodiment, the methodologies feature such recombinant microorganisms further having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) pathway. In a preferred embodiment, the microorganisms belong to the genus *Bacillus* (*e.g.*, *B. subtilis*).

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The methodologies of the invention also feature recombinant microorganisms (e.g., microorganisms belong to the genus Bacillus, for example, B. subtilis) that include the coaA gene or that include a mutant coaA gene, optionally including a coaX gene or mutant thereof, having reduced pantothenate kinase activity. In one embodiment, the methodologies feature such recombinant microorganisms further having a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway or having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway. Also featured are vectors that include isolated coaX or coaA genes as well as mutant coaX and/or coaA genes. Isolated nucleic acid molecules that include isolated coaX genes or mutant coaX genes are features in addition to isolated CoaX proteins and mutant CoaX proteins.

The above-described nucleic acid molecules (e.g., genes), proteins, vectors, and recombinant microorganisms (e.g., mutant microorganisms), are particularly suited for use in methods of producing panto-compounds and/or methods of enhancing panto-compound production. In one embodiment, the invention features a method for producing a panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate) that includes culturing a pantothenate kinase mutant (e.g., a recombinant microorganism that misexpresses, e.g., is mutated for, pantothenate kinase, as defined herein) under conditions such that panto-compound is produced. In another embodiment, the invention features a method for enhancing production of a panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate) that includes culturing a pantothenate kinase mutant (e.g., a recombinant microorganism that misexpresses, e.g., is mutated for, pantothenate kinase, as defined herein) under conditions such that

production of the panto-compound is produced. As used herein, the term "enhancing" (for example, in the context of the phrase "enhancing production") includes increasing the level or rate of production of panto-compound (e.g., pantothenate) as compared to the level or rate of production in a non-mutant microorganism (e.g., a microorganism having a normal pantothenate kinase gene(s) and/or having normal pantothenate production rates and/or levels.

Preferably, the level of panto-compound produced in methodologies featuring the pantothenate kinase mutants of the present invention is increased by at least 5% as compared to the level produced by a non-mutant (e.g., a recombinant microorganism expressing non-mutated pantothenate kinase). Even more preferably, the level of panto-compound is increased 10% as compared to methodologies featuring non-mutants. Even more preferably, panto-compound levels (e.g., pantothenate levels) are increased 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, are increased 2-fold, 5-fold, 10-fold, 50-fold, 100-fold or more as compared to methodologies featuring non-mutants.

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VI. Additional Mutations Resulting in Enhanced Panto-Compound Production

The methodologies of the present invention further can include, for example in addition to overexpressing or deregulating a pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme and/or an isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme, or in addition to mutating a pantothenate-kinase encoding gene, deleting or mutating an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of key pantothenate biosynthesis substrates or precursors to unwanted or undesirable products. For example, mutating the ilvE gene (Kuramitsu et al. (1985) J. Biochem. 97:993-999) or a homologue thereof (SEQ ID NO:62 or SEQ ID NO:64), thereby limiting the conversion of α-ketoisovalerate to valine, in addition to mutating a pantothenate kinase encoding enzyme, is predicted to result in even further enhanced or increased production of panto-compound. Alternatively, mutating the ansB gene (Sun and Seflow (1991) J. Bacteriol. 173:3831-3845) or a homologue thereof (SEQ ID NO:66), thereby limiting the degradation of aspartate, in addition to mutating a pantothenate kinase encoding enzyme, is predicted to result in even further enhanced or increased production of pantocompound. Alternatively, mutating the alsD gene (Renna et al. (1993) J. Bacteriol. 175:3863-3875) or a homologue thereof (SEQ ID NO:68), thereby limiting the conversion of acetolactate to acetoin, in addition to mutating a pantothenate kinase encoding enzyme, is predicted to result in even further enhanced or increased production of panto-compound. Alternatively, mutating the avtA gene encoding alanine-valine transaminase or a homologue thereof, thereby limiting the conversion of aketoisovalerate to valine, in addition to mutating a pantothenate kinase encoding

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enzyme, is predicted to result in even further enhanced or increased production of panto-compound. Mutating the *avtA* gene can include mutating, for example, an *avtA* gene having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:70 (*e.g.*, the *E. coli avtA* gene), or a structural homolog thereof (*e.g.*, a homologue encoding a protein having 30-40%, 40-50%, 50-60%, 60-70%, 70-80%, 80-90%, 90-95% or more identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:71) or a functional homologue (*e.g.*, a gene encoding a structurally unrelated protein having alanine-valine transmainase activity. Such mutations can be accomplished using the methodologies as exemplified in the Examples (*e.g.*, Examples XIII, XV, XVI and XVII).

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Accordingly, in one embodiment, the invention features a method of producing a panto-compound which includes culturing a microorganism having a mutant pantothenate kinase-encoding gene and which further has a deletion or mutation in an avtA, ilvE, ansB, and/or alsD gene, or homologue thereof. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing a panto-compound which includes culturing a microorganism having a mutant pantothenate-kinase encoding gene and a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway enzyme and which further has a deletion or mutation in an avtA, ilvE, ansB, and/or alsD gene, or homologue thereof. In another embodiment, the invention features a method of producing a panto-compound which includes culturing a microorganism having a mutant pantothenate-kinase encoding gene and a deregulated isoleucine-valine biosynthetic pathway enzyme and which further has a deletion or mutation in an avtA, ilvE, ansB, and/or alsD gene, or homologue thereof.

Mutating the *alsD* gene can be particularly useful when accomplished in conjunction with overexpression or deregulation of the *alsS* gene, for example, to prevent carbon (*e.g.*, acetolactate) from being drawn away from the precursor pool utilized for α-KIV production. Accordingly, to maximize the contribution of the *als* locus to panto-compound production, it is desirable to disrupt the *alsD* gene in addition to overexpressing the *alsS* gene. To disrupt the *alsD* gene, appropriate fragments of the *als* operon, flanking the *alsD* gene, are amplified by PCR and cloned to provide homology for creating the disruptions. A drug resistance gene, such as the *cat* gene, is cloned between the flanking DNA fragments in place of the *alsD* gene, and the linearized DNA is transformed into a pantothenate production strain such as PA824, selecting for drug-resistance. To overexpress *alsS*, the *alsS* coding sequence (*e.g.*, an *alsS* coding sequence that has been engineered by PCR for expression) is cloned into an expression vector. Vectors which express *alsS* (or alternatively, vectors which express *alsS* plus *ilvC*) are the introduced into panto-compound production strains (*e.g.*, the pantothenate producing strain PA824).

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The methodologies of the present invention further can include, for example in addition to overexpressing or deregulating a pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme and/or an isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme, or in addition to mutating a pantothenate-kinase encoding gene, deleting or mutating an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of desired panto-compounds to unwanted or undesireable downstream products.

VII. Isolated Nucleic Acid Molecules and Genes

Another aspect of the present invention features isolated nucleic acid molecules that encode *Bacillus* proteins (e.g., B. subtilis proteins), for example, *Bacillus* pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., B. subtilis pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes) or *Bacillus* valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzymes (e.g., B. subtilis valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzymes). Also featured are isolated coaX and/or coaA nucleic acid molecules (e.g., isolated coaX and/or coaA genes) as well as isolated nucleic acid molecules that include such coaX and/or coaA nucleic acid molecules or genes.

The term "nucleic acid molecule" includes DNA molecules (e.g., linear, circular, cDNA or chromosomal DNA) and RNA molecules (e.g., tRNA, rRNA, mRNA) and analogs of the DNA or RNA generated using nucleotide analogs. The nucleic acid molecule can be single-stranded or double-stranded, but preferably is double-stranded DNA. The term "isolated" nucleic acid molecule includes a nucleic acid molecule which is free of sequences which naturally flank the nucleic acid molecule (i.e., sequences located at the 5' and 3' ends of the nucleic acid molecule) in the chromosomal DNA of the organism from which the nucleic acid is derived. In various embodiments, an isolated nucleic acid molecule can contain less than about 10 kb, 5 kb, 4kb, 3kb, 2kb, 1 kb, 0.5 kb, 0.1 kb, 50 bp, 25 bp or 10 bp of nucleotide sequences which naturally flank the nucleic acid molecule in chromosomal DNA of the microorganism from which the nucleic acid molecule is derived. Moreover, an "isolated" nucleic acid molecule, such as a cDNA molecule, can be substantially free of other cellular materials when produced by recombinant techniques, or substantially free of chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized.

The term "gene", as used herein, includes a nucleic acid molecule (e.g., a DNA molecule or segment thereof), for example, a protein or RNA-encoding nucleic acid molecule, that in an organism, is separated from another gene or other genes, by intergenic DNA (i.e., intervening or spacer DNA which naturally flanks the gene and/or separates genes in the chromosomal DNA of the organism). A gene may direct synthesis of an enzyme or other protein molecule (e.g., may comprise coding sequences, for example, a contiguous open reading frame (ORF) which encodes a protein) or may itself be functional in the organism. A gene in an organism, may be clustered in an

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operon, as defined herein, said operon being separated from other genes and/or operons by the intergenic DNA. Individual genes contained within an operon may overlap without intergenic DNA between said individual genes. An "isolated gene", as used herein, includes a gene which is essentially free of sequences which naturally flank the gene in the chromosomal DNA of the organism from which the gene is derived (i.e., is free of adjacent coding sequences which encode a second or distinct protein or RNA molecule, adjacent structural sequences or the like) and optionally includes 5' and 3' regulatory sequences, for example promoter sequences and/or terminator sequences. In one embodiment, an isolated gene includes predominantly coding sequences for a protein (e.g., sequences which encode Bacillus proteins). In another embodiment, an isolated gene includes coding sequences for a protein (e.g., for a Bacillus protein) and adjacent 5' and/or 3' regulatory sequences from the chromosomal DNA of the organism from which the gene is derived (e.g., adjacent 5' and/or 3' Bacillus regulatory sequences). Preferably, an isolated gene contains less than about 10 kb, 5 kb, 2 kb, 1 kb, 0.5 kb, 0.2 kb, 0.1 kb, 50 bp, 25 bp or 10 bp of nucleotide sequences which naturally flank the gene in the chromosomal DNA of the organism from which the gene is derived.

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In one aspect, the present invention features isolated panB nucleic acid sequences or genes, isolated panC nucleic acid sequences or genes, isolated panD nucleic acid sequences or genes, isolated panE nucleic acid sequences or genes, isolated ilvB, ilvN, ilvBN nucleic acid sequences or genes, isolated alsS nucleic acid sequences or genes, isolated ilvC nucleic acid sequences or genes and/or isolated ilvD nucleic acid sequences or genes.

In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid or gene is derived from Bacillus

(e.g., is Bacillus-derived). The term "derived from Bacillus" or "Bacillus-derived" includes a nucleic acid or gene which is naturally found in microorganisms of the genus Bacillus. Preferably, the nucleic acid or gene is derived from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus lentimorbus, Bacillus lentus, Bacillus firmus, Bacillus pantothenticus, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus cereus,

Bacillus circulans, Bacillus coagulans, Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus megaterium,

Bacillus pumilus, Bacillus thuringiensis, and other Group 1 Bacillus species, for example, as characterized by 16S rRNA type (Priest, supra). In another preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid or gene is derived from Bacillus brevis or Bacillus stearothermophilus. In another preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid molecules and/or genes of the present invention are derived from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus halodurans, Bacillus subtilis, and Bacillus pumilus. In a particularly preferred

embodiment, the nucleic acid or gene is derived from Bacillus subtilis (e.g., is Bacillus subtilis-derived). The term "derived from Bacillus subtilis" or "Bacillus subtilis-derived" includes a nucleic acid or gene which is naturally found in Bacillus subtilis. In yet another preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid or gene is a Bacillus gene homologue (e.g., is derived from a species distinct from Bacillus but having significant homology to a Bacillus gene of the present invention, for example, a Bacillus pan gene or Bacillus ilv gene).

Included within the scope of the present invention are bacterial-derived nucleic acid molecules or genes and/or Bacillus-derived nucleic acid molecules or genes (e.g., B. subtilis-derived nucleic acid molecules or genes), for example, the genes identified by the present inventors, for example, Bacillus or B. subtilis coaX genes, coaA genes, pan genes and/or ilv genes. Further included within the scope of the present invention are bacterial-derived nucleic acid molecules or genes and/or Bacillus-derived nucleic acid molecules or genes (e.g., B. subtilis-derived nucleic acid molecules or genes) (e.g., B. subtilis nucleic acid molecules or genes) which differ from naturally-occurring bacterial and/or Bacillus nucleic acid molecules or genes (e.g., B. subtilis nucleic acid molecules or genes), for example, nucleic acid molecules or genes which have nucleic acids that are substituted, inserted or deleted, but which encode proteins substantially similar to the naturally-occurring gene products of the present invention. In one embodiment, an 20 isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises at least one of the nucleotide sequences set forth as SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:86, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises at least two, three or four of the nucleotide sequences set forth as SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. For example, a preferred isolated nucleic acid molecule of the present invention can include the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25 and SEQ ID NO:27, preferably linked such that the proteins encoded by the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25 and SEQ ID NO:27 are each produced when the isolated nucleic acid molecule is expressed in a microorganism (e.g., SEQ ID NO:59). In another example, a preferred isolated nucleic acid molecule of the present invention can include the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:31 and SEQ ID NO:33, preferably linked such that the proteins encoded by the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:31 and SEQ ID NO:33 are each produced when the isolated nucleic acid molecule is expressed in a microorganism (e.g., nucleotides 1-2246 of SEQ ID NO:58). In another example, a preferred isolated nucleic acid molecule of the present invention can include the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:86. In another example, a preferred

isolated nucleic acid molecule of the present invention can include the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33 and SEQ ID NO:35, preferably linked such that the proteins encoded by the nucleotide sequences of SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:33 and SEQ ID NO:35 are each produced when the isolated nucleic acid molecule is expressed in a microorganism (e.g., SEQ ID NO:58).

In another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the present invention comprises a nucleotide sequence which is at least about 60-65%, preferably at least about 70-75%, more preferable at least about 80-85%, and even more preferably at least about 90-95% or more identical to a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEO ID 10 NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. In another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. Such stringent conditions are known to those skilled in 15 the art and can be found in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6. A preferred, non-limiting example of stringent (e.g. high stringency) hybridization conditions are hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SSC, 0.1% SDS 20 at 50-65°C. Preferably, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37 corresponds to a naturally-occurring nucleic acid molecule. As used herein, a "naturally-occurring" nucleic acid molecule refers to 25 an RNA or DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence that occurs in nature.

A nucleic acid molecule of the present invention (e.g., a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37 can be isolated using standard molecular biology techniques and the sequence information provided herein. For example, nucleic acid molecules can be isolated using standard hybridization and cloning techniques (e.g., as described in Sambrook, J., Fritsh, E. F., and Maniatis, T. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual. 2nd, ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989) or can be isolated by the polymerase chain reaction using synthetic oligonucleotide primers designed based upon the sequence of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO 31, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:88, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:37. A nucleic acid of the invention can be

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amplified using cDNA, mRNA or alternatively, genomic DNA, as a template and appropriate oligonucleotide primers according to standard PCR amplification techniques. In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule of the invention comprises a nucleic acid molecule which is a complement of the nucleotide
sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29, SEQ ID NO:33, SEQ ID NO:31, SEQ ID NO:35.

Additional panC nucleic acid sequences include those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:26 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:26 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:25 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:26, or are complementary to a panC nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

Aditional panD nucleic acid sequences include those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:28 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:28 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:27 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:28, or are complementary to a panD nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

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Additional panE nucleic acid sequences include those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:29, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:30 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:30 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:29 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:30, or are complementary to a panE nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

Additional *ilvB* nucleic acid sequences are those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:31, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:32 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:32 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:31 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:32, or are complementary to an *ilvB* nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

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Additional *ilvN* nucleic acid sequences are those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:33, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:34 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:34 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:33 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:34, or are complementary to an *ilvN* nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

Additional *ilvC* nucleic acid sequences include those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:35, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:36 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:36 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:35 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:36, or are complementary to an *ilvC* nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

Additional *ilvD* nucleic acid sequences include those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:37, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:38 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:38 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:37 or

to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:38, or are complementary to an *ilvD* nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

Additional alsS nucleic acid sequences include those that comprise the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:86, encode a homologue of the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:87 (e.g., encode a polypeptide having at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95% or more identity to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:87 and a substantially identical activity as said polypeptide), hybridize under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:86 or to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:87, or are complementary to an alsS nucleotide sequence as set forth herein.

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In another embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule is or includes a coaX gene, or portion or fragment thereof. In one embodiment, an isolated coaX nucleic acid 15 molecule or gene comprises the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:19 (e.g., comprises the B. subtilis coaX nucleotide sequence). In another embodiment, an isolated coaX nucleic acid molecule or gene comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9 (e.g., encodes the B. subtilis CoaX amino acid sequence). In yet another embodiment, an isolated coaX 20 nucleic acid molecule or gene encodes a homologue of the CoaX protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9. As used herein, the term "homologue" includes a protein or polypeptide sharing at least about 30-35%, preferably at least about 35-40%, more preferably at least about 40-50%, and even more preferably at least about 60%, 25 70%, 80%, 90% or more identity with the amino acid sequence of a wild-type protein or polypeptide described herein and having a substantially equivalent functional or biological activity as said wild-type protein or polypeptide. For example, a CoaX homologue shares at least about 30-35%, preferably at least about 35-40%, more preferably at least about 40-50%, and even more preferably at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% or more identity with the protein having the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 and has a substantially equivalent functional or biological activity (i.e., is a functional equivalent) of the protein having the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:9 (e.g., has a substantially equivalent pantothenate kinase activity). In a preferred embodiment, an isolated coaX nucleic acid molecule or gene comprises a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18, SEQ ID

NO:74 or SEQ ID NO:75. In another embodiment, an isolated coaX nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:19 or hybridizes to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of any of SEQ ID NOs:7-18, 74 or 75. Such hybridization conditions are known to those skilled in the art and can be found in Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Ausubel et al., eds., John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (1995), sections 2, 4 and 6. Additional stringent conditions can be found in Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Sambrook et al., Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY (1989), chapters 7, 9 and 11. A preferred, non-limiting example of stringent hybridization 10 conditions includes hybridization in 4X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC), at about 65-70°C (or hybridization in 4X SSC plus 50% formamide at about 42-50°C) followed by one or more washes in 1X SSC, at about 65-70°C. A preferred, non-limiting example of highly stringent hybridization conditions includes hybridization in 1X SSC, at about 65-70°C (or hybridization in 1X SSC plus 50% formamide at about 42-50°C) 15 followed by one or more washes in 0.3X SSC, at about 65-70°C. A preferred, nonlimiting example of reduced stringency hybridization conditions includes hybridization in 4X SSC, at about 50-60°C (or alternatively hybridization in 6X SSC plus 50% formamide at about 40-45°C) followed by one or more washes in 2X SSC, at about 50-60°C. Ranges intermediate to the above-recited values, e.g., at 65-70°C or at 42-50°C are also intended to be encompassed by the present invention. SSPE (1X SSPE is 0.15 M NaCl, 10mM NaH₂PO₄, and 1.25 mM EDTA, pH 7.4) can be substituted for SSC (1X SSC is 0.15 M NaCl and 15 mM sodium citrate) in the hybridization and wash buffers; washes are performed for 15 minutes each after hybridization is complete. The 25 hybridization temperature for hybrids anticipated to be less than 50 base pairs in length should be 5-10°C less than the melting temperature (T_m) of the hybrid, where T_m is determined according to the following equations. For hybrids less than 18 base pairs in length, $T_m(^{\circ}C) = 2(\# \text{ of } A + T \text{ bases}) + 4(\# \text{ of } G + C \text{ bases})$. For hybrids between 18 and 49 base pairs in length, $T_m(^{\circ}C) = 81.5 + 16.6(\log_{10}[Na^+]) + 0.41(\%G+C) - (600/N)$, where N is the number of bases in the hybrid, and [Na⁺] is the concentration of sodium ions in the hybridization buffer ($[Na^{\dagger}]$ for 1X SSC = 0.165 M). It will also be recognized by the skilled practitioner that additional reagents may be added to hybridization and/or wash buffers to decrease non-specific hybridization of nucleic acid molecules to membranes, for example, nitrocellulose or nylon membranes, including but not limited to blocking agents (e.g., BSA or salmon or herring sperm carrier DNA), detergents (e.g., SDS), chelating agents (e.g., EDTA), Ficoll, PVP and the like. When using nylon membranes, in particular, an additional preferred, non-limiting example of

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stringent hybridization conditions is hybridization in 0.25-0.5M NaH₂PO₄, 7% SDS at about 65°C, followed by one or more washes at 0.02M NaH₂PO₄, 1% SDS at 65°C, see *e.g.*, Church and Gilbert (1984) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:1991-1995, (or, alternatively, 0.2X SSC, 1% SDS). In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a *coaX* nucleotide sequence as set forth herein (*e.g.*, is the full complement of the nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:19).

In another preferred embodiment, an isolated nucleic acid molecule is or includes a coal gene, for example, a Bacillus (e.g., B. subtilis) coal gene, or portion or fragment thereof. Exemplary isolated coaA nucleic acid molecules and/or genes include (1) an isolated coaA nucleic acid molecule or gene comprising the nucleotide sequence as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NOs:20-22; (2) an isolated coaA nucleic acid molecule or gene comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3; (3) an isolated coaA nucleic acid molecule or gene comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a CoaA homologue (e.g., a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least about 30-35%, preferably at least about 35-40%, more preferably at least about 40-50%, and even more preferably at least about 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% or more identical to the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:3 and having a substantially equivalent enzymatic activity; (4) an isolated coaA nucleic acid molecule or gene comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide as set forth in any one of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6; (5) an isolated nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21 or SEQ ID NO:22 or hybridizes to all or a portion of a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence that encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3; and (6) an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a coal nucleotide sequence as set forth herein (e.g., is the full complement of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:20, SEQ ID NO:21 or SEQ ID NO:22).

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A nucleic acid molecule of the present invention (e.g., a coaX nucleic acid molecule or gene or a coaA nucleic acid molecule or gene), can be isolated using standard molecular biology techniques and the sequence information provided herein. For example, nucleic acid molecules can be isolated using standard hybridization and cloning techniques (e.g., as described in Sambrook, J., Fritsh, E. F., and Maniatis, T. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual. 2nd, ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989) or can be isolated by the polymerase chain reaction using synthetic oligonucleotide primers designed

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based upon the coaX or coaA nucleotide sequences set forth herein, or flanking sequences thereof. A nucleic acid of the invention (e.g., a coaX nucleic acid molecule or gene or a coaA nucleic acid molecule or gene), can be amplified using cDNA, mRNA or alternatively, chromosomal DNA, as a template and appropriate oligonucleotide primers according to standard PCR amplification techniques.

Yet another embodiment of the present invention features mutant coaX and coaA nucleic acid molecules or genes. The phrase "mutant nucleic acid molecule" or "mutant gene" as used herein, includes a nucleic acid molecule or gene having a nucleotide sequence which includes at least one alteration (e.g., substitution, insertion, deletion) such that the polypeptide or protein that may be encoded by said mutant exhibits an activity that differs from the polypeptide or protein encoded by the wild-type nucleic acid molecule or gene. Preferably, a mutant nucleic acid molecule or mutant gene (e.g., a mutant coaA or coaX gene) encodes a polypeptide or protein having a reduced activity (e.g., having a reduced pantothenate kinase activity) as compared to the polypeptide or protein encoded by the wild-type nucleic acid molecule or gene, for example, when assayed under similar conditions (e.g., assayed in microorganisms cultured at the same temperature). A mutant gene also can encode no polypeptide or have a reduced level of production of the wild-type polypeptide.

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As used herein, a "reduced activity" or "reduced enzymatic activity" is one that 20 is at least 5% less than that of the polypeptide or protein encoded by the wild-type nucleic acid molecule or gene, preferably at least 5-10% less, more preferably at least 10-25% less and even more preferably at least 25-50%, 50-75% or 75-100% less than that of the polypeptide or protein encoded by the wild-type nucleic acid molecule or gene. Ranges intermediate to the above-recited values, e.g., 75-85%, 85-90%, 90-95%, are also intended to be encompassed by the present invention. As used herein, a "reduced activity" or "reduced enzymatic activity" also includes an activity that has been deleted or "knocked out" (e.g., approximately 100% less activity than that of the polypeptide or protein encoded by the wild-type nucleic acid molecule or gene). Activity can be determined according to any well accepted assay for measuring activity of a particular protein of interest. Activity can be measured or assayed directly, for example, measuring an activity of a protein isolated or purified from a cell. Alternatively, an activity can be measured or assayed within a cell or in an extracellular medium. For example, assaying for a mutant coal gene or a mutant coal gene (i.e., said mutant encoding a reduced pantothenate kinase activity) can be accomplished by expressing the mutated gene in a microorganism, for example, a mutant microorganism which expresses pantothenate kinase in a temperature-sensitive manner, assaying the mutant gene for the ability to complement a temperature sensitive (Ts) mutant for

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pantothenate kinase activity. A coaX mutant gene or coaA mutant gene that encodes a "reduced pantothenate kinase activity" is one that complements the Ts mutant less effectively than, for example, a corresponding wild-type coaX gene or coaA gene.

It will be appreciated by the skilled artisan that even a single substitution in a nucleic acid or gene sequence (e.g., a base substitution that encodes an amino acid change in the corresponding amino acid sequence) can dramatically affect the activity of an encoded polypeptide or protein as compared to the corresponding wild-type polypeptide or protein. A mutant nucleic acid or mutant gene (e.g., encoding a mutant polypeptide or protein), as defined herein, is readily distinguishable from a nucleic acid or gene encoding a protein homologue, as described above, in that a mutant nucleic acid or mutant gene encodes a protein or polypeptide having an altered activity, optionally observable as a different or distinct phenotype in a microorganism expressing said mutant gene or nucleic acid or producing said mutant protein or polypeptide (i.e., a mutant microorganism) as compared to a corresponding microorganism expressing the wild-type gene or nucleic acid or producing said mutant protein or polypeptide. By contrast, a protein homologue has an identical or substantially similar activity. optionally phenotypically indiscernable when produced in a microorganism, as compared to a corresponding microorganism expressing the wild-type gene or nucleic acid. Accordingly it is not, for example, the degree of sequence identity between nucleic acid molecules, genes, protein or polypeptides that serves to distinguish between homologues and mutants, rather it is the activity of the encoded protein or polypeptide that distinguishes between homologues and mutants: homologues having, for example, low (e.g., 30-50% sequence identity) sequence identity yet having substantially equivalent functional activities, and mutants, for example sharing 99% sequence identity yet having dramatically different or altered functional activities. Exemplary homologues are set forth in Figure 20 (i.e., CoaA homologues) and in Figure 23 (i.e., CoaX homologues). Exemplary mutants are described in Examples XV and XVIII herein.

VIII. Recombinant Nucleic Acid Molecules and Vectors

The present invention further features recombinant nucleic acid molecules (e.g., recombinant DNA molecules) that include nucleic acid molecules and/or genes described herein (e.g., isolated nucleic acid molecules and/or genes), preferably Bacillus genes, more preferably Bacillus subtilis genes, even more preferably Bacillus subtilis pantothenate kinase genes (e.g., coaX genes or coaA genes), pantothenate biosynthetic genes (e.g., genes encoding pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes, for example, panB genes encoding ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, panE genes encoding

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ketopantoate reductase, panC genes encoding pantothenate synthetase, and/or panD genes encoding aspartate-α-decarboxylase) and/or isoleucine-valine (ilv) biosynthetic genes (e.g., ilvBN or alsS genes encoding acetohydroxyacid synthetase, ilvC genes encoding acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase and/or ilvD genes encoding dihydroxyacid dehydratase).

The present invention further features vectors (e.g., recombinant vectors) that include nucleic acid molecules (e.g., isolated or recombinant nucleic acid molecules and/or genes) described herein. In particular, recombinant vectors are featured that include nucleic acid sequences that encode bacterial gene products as described herein, preferably Bacillus gene products, more preferably Bacillus subtilis gene products, even more preferably Bacillus subtilis pantothenate biosynthetic gene products (e.g., pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes, for example, ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase, and/or aspartate-α-decarboxylase) and/or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic gene products (e.g., acetohydroxyacid synthetase, acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase and/or dihydroxyacid dehydratase).

The term "recombinant nucleic acid molecule" includes a nucleic acid molecule (e.g., a DNA molecule) that has been altered, modified or engineered such that it differs in nucleotide sequence from the native or natural nucleic acid molecule from which the recombinant nucleic acid molecule was derived (e.g., by addition, deletion or substitution of one or more nucleotides). Preferably, a recombinant nucleic acid molecule (e.g., a recombinant DNA molecule) includes an isolated nucleic acid molecule or gene of the present invention (e.g., an isolated coaX, coaA, pan or ilv gene) operably linked to regulatory sequences.

The term "recombinant vector" includes a vector (e.g., plasmid, phage, phasmid, virus, cosmid or other purified nucleic acid vector) that has been altered, modified or engineered such that it contains greater, fewer or different nucleic acid sequences than those included in the native or natural nucleic acid molecule from which the recombinant vector was derived. Preferably, the recombinant vector includes a coaX, coaA, pan or ilv gene or recombinant nucleic acid molecule including such coaX, coaA, pan or ilv gene, operably linked to regulatory sequences, for example, promoter sequences, terminator sequences and/or artificial ribosome binding sites (RBSs), as defined herein.

The phrase "operably linked to regulatory sequence(s)" means that the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule or gene of interest is linked to the regulatory sequence(s) in a manner which allows for expression (e.g., enhanced, increased, constitutive, basal, attenuated, decreased or repressed expression) of the

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nucleotide sequence, preferably expression of a gene product encoded by the nucleotide sequence (e.g., when the recombinant nucleic acid molecule is included in a recombinant vector, as defined herein, and is introduced into a microorganism).

The term "regulatory sequence" includes nucleic acid sequences which affect (e.g., modulate or regulate) expression of other nucleic acid sequences. In one embodiment, a regulatory sequence is included in a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector in a similar or identical position and/or orientation relative to a particular gene of interest as is observed for the regulatory sequence and gene of interest as it appears in nature, e.g., in a native position and/or orientation. For example, a gene of interest can be included in a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector operably linked to a regulatory sequence which accompanies or is adjacent to the gene of interest in the natural organism (e.g., operably linked to "native" regulatory sequences, for example, to the "native" promoter). Alternatively, a gene of interest can be included in a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector operably linked to a regulatory sequence which accompanies or is adjacent to another (e.g., a different) gene in the natural organism. Alternatively, a gene of interest can be included in a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector operably linked to a regulatory sequence from another organism. For example, regulatory sequences from other microbes (e.g., other bacterial regulatory sequences, bacteriophage regulatory sequences and the like) can be operably linked to a particular gene of interest.

In one embodiment, a regulatory sequence is a non-native or non-naturallyoccurring sequence (e.g., a sequence which has been modified, mutated, substituted, derivatized, deleted including sequences which are chemically synthesized). Preferred regulatory sequences include promoters, enhancers, termination signals, anti-termination signals and other expression control elements (e.g., sequences to which repressors or inducers bind and/or binding sites for transcriptional and/or translational regulatory proteins, for example, in the transcribed mRNA). Such regulatory sequences are described, for example, in Sambrook, J., Fritsh, E. F., and Maniatis, T. Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual. 2nd, ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989. Regulatory sequences include those which direct constitutive expression of a nucleotide sequence in a microorganism (e.g., constitutive promoters and strong constitutive promoters), those which direct inducible expression of a nucleotide sequence in a microorganism (e.g., inducible promoters, for example, xylose inducible promoters) and those which attenuate or repress expression of a nucleotide sequence in a microorganism (e.g., attenuation signals or repressor sequences). It is also within the scope of the present invention to regulate expression of a gene of interest by removing or deleting regulatory sequences. For

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example, sequences involved in the negative regulation of transcription can be removed such that expression of a gene of interest is enhanced.

In one embodiment, a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector of the present invention includes a nucleic acid sequence or gene that encodes at least one bacterial gene product (e.g., a pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme, an isoleucinevaline biosynthetic enzyme, or a CoaA biosynthetic enzyme, for example CoaA or CoaX) operably linked to a promoter or promoter sequence. Preferred promoters of the present invention include Bacillus promoters and/or bacteriophage promoters (e.g., bacteriophage which infect Bacillus). In one embodiment, a promoter is a Bacillus promoter, preferably a strong Bacillus promoter (e.g., a promoter associated with a biochemical housekeeping gene in *Bacillus* or a promoter associated with a glycolytic pathway gene in Bacillus). In another embodiment, a promoter is a bacteriophage promoter. In a preferred embodiment, the promoter is from the bacteriophage SP01. In a particularly preferred embodiment, a promoter is selected from the group consisting of P_{15} , P_{26} or P_{veg} , for example, the promoters set forth in SEQ ID NO:39, SEQ ID NO:40 or SEQ ID NO:41. Additional preferred promoters include tef (the translational elongation factor (TEF) promoter) and pyc (the pyruvate carboxylase (PYC) promoter), which promote high level expression in Bacillus (e.g., Bacillus subtilis). Additional preferred promoters, for example, for use in Gram positive microorganisms include, but are not limited to, the amy E promoter or phage SP02 promoters. Additional preferred promoters, for example, for use in Gram negative microorganisms include, but are not limited to tac, trp, tet, trp-tet, lpp, lac, lpp-lac, lacIq, T7, T5, T3, gal, trc, ara, SP6, λ -P_R or λ - P_L .

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In another embodiment, a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector of the present invention includes a terminator sequence or terminator sequences (e.g., transcription terminator sequences). The term "terminator sequences" includes regulatory sequences which serve to terminate transcription of a gene. Terminator sequences (or tandem transcription terminators) can further serve to stabilize mRNA (e.g., by adding structure to mRNA), for example, against nucleases.

In yet another embodiment, a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector of the present invention includes sequences which allow for detection of the vector containing said sequences (i.e., detectable and/or selectable markers), for example, sequences that overcome auxotrophic mutations, for example, ura3 or ilvE, fluorescent markers, and/or colorimetric markers (e.g., lacZ/β-galactosidase), and/or antibiotic resistance genes (e.g., amp or tet).

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In yet another embodiment, a recombinant nucleic acid molecule or recombinant vector of the present invention includes an artificial ribosome binding site (RBS). The term "artificial ribosome binding site (RBS)" includes a site within an mRNA molecule (e.g., coded within DNA) to which a ribosome binds (e.g., to initiate translation) which differs from a native RBS (e.g., a RBS found in a naturally-occurring gene) by at least one nucleotide. Preferred artificial RBSs include about 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30 or more nucleotides of which about 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-15 or more differ from the native RBS (e.g., the native RBS of a gene of interest). Preferably, nucleotides which differ are substituted such that they are identical to one or more nucleotides of an ideal RBS (e.g., SEQ ID NO:44, SEQ ID NO:45, SEQ ID NO:46, SEQ ID NO:47 or SEQ ID NO:48), when optimally aligned for comparisons. Artificial RBSs can be used to replace the naturallyoccurring or native RBS associated with a particular gene. Artificial RBSs preferably increase translation of a particular gene. Preferred artificial RBSs (e.g., RBSs for increasing the translation of panB, for example, of B. subtilis panB) are depicted in Table IA (e.g., SEQ ID NO:49 and SEQ ID NO:50).

Table IA: Preferred panB Ribosome Binding Sites

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-----AGAAAGGAGGTGA
ideal RBS (SEQ ID NO:44)

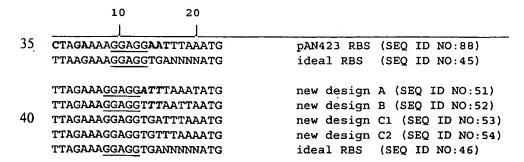
CCCTCT-AG-AAGGAGGAGAAAACATG
CCCTCT-AG--AGGAGGAGAAAACATG
RBS1 (SEQ ID NO:49)

CCCTCT-AG--AGGAGGAGAAAACATG
RBS2 (SEQ ID NO:50)

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TAAACAT-G--AGGAGGAGAAAACATG
panB native RBS (SEQ ID NO:42)
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Additional preferred artificial RBSs (e.g., RBSs for increasing the translation of panD, for example, of B. subtilis panD) are depicted in Table 1B (e.g., SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:53 and SEQ ID NO:54).

Table 1B: Preferred panD Ribosome Binding Sites



Additional preferred artificial RBSs (e.g., RBSs for increasing the translation of panD, for example, of B. subtilis panD) are depicted in Table 1C (e.g., SEQ ID NO:55, SEQ ID NO:56 and SEQ ID NO:57). The predicted amino acid sequence at the C-terminus of the PanC protein is shown. The start codon for PanD translation is underlined.

Table 1C: Additional Preferred panD Ribosome Binding Sites

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        --A GAA AGG AGG TGA NNN NNN N ATG
                                           ideal RBS (SEQ ID NO:47)
    ATT CGA GAA ATG GAG AGA ATA TAA T ATG native panD RBS (SEQ ID NO:43)
    Ile Arg Glu Met Glu Arg Ile *
                                     Met SEQ ID NO:89
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    --- -- A GAA AGG AGG TGA NNN NNN N ATG ideal RBS (SEQ ID NO:47)
    ATT CGA GAA AGG AGG TGA ATA TAA T ATG
                                           NDI (SEQ ID NO:55)
    Ile Arg Glu Arg Arg *
                                     Met
                                           SEQ ID NO:90
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    ATT CGA GAA AGG AGG TGA ATA ATA - ATG
                                           NDII (SEQ ID NO:56)
    Ile Arg Glu Arg Arg *
                                     Met
                                           SEQ ID NO:90
    ATT CGT AGA AAG GAG GTG AAT TAA T ATG
                                           NDIII (SEQ ID NO:57)
25 Ile Arg Arg Lys Glu Val Asn *
                                           SEQ ID NO:91
                                     Met
    --- -- AGA AAG GAG GTG ANN NNN N ATG ideal RBS (SEQ ID NO:48)
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Accordingly, in one embodiment, a vector of the present invention includes an artificial RBS as set forth in SEQ ID NO:49 or SEQ ID NO:50. In another embodiment, a vector of the present invention includes an artificial RBS as set forth in SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:53 or SEQ ID NO:54. In yet another embodiment, a vector of the present invention includes an artificial RBS as set forth in SEQ ID NO:55, SEQ ID NO:56 or SEQ ID NO:57.

In another embodiment, a recombinant vector of the present invention includes sequences that enhance replication in bacteria (e.g., replication-enhancing sequences). In one embodiment, replication-enhancing sequences are derived from E. coli. In another embodiment, replication-enhancing sequences are derived from pBR322 (e.g., sequences included within the pBR322 derived portion of any of the pAN vectors as set forth in the Figures, i.e., the Not I-Not I sequences from about 5.0 kB to 9.0 kB of the vector depicted in Figure 3A).

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In yet another embodiment, a recombinant vector of the present invention includes antibiotic resistance genes. The term "antibiotic resistance genes" includes sequences which promote or confer resistance to antibiotics on the host organism (e.g., Bacillus). In one embodiment, the antibiotic resistance genes are selected from the group consisting of cat (chloramphenicol resistance) genes, tet (tetracycline resistance) genes, erm (erythromycin resistance) genes, neo (neomycin resistance) genes and spec (spectinomycin resistance) genes. Recombinant vectors of the present invention can further include homologous recombination sequences (e.g., sequences designed to allow recombination of the gene of interest into the chromosome of the host organism). For example, amyE sequences can be used as homology targets for recombination into the host chromosome.

Preferred vectors of the present invention include, but are not limited to, vectors set forth in Figures 2-15, 17, 19, 22, 25 and 26. It will further be appreciated by one of skill in the art that the design of a vector can be tailored depending on such factors as the choice of microorganism to be genetically engineered, the level of expression of gene product desired and the like.

IX. Isolated Proteins

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Another aspect of the present invention features isolated proteins (e.g., isolated pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes and/or valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzymes and/or isolated CoA biosynthetic enzymes, for example isolated CoaA or CoaX). In one embodiment, proteins (e.g., isolated pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes and/or valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzymes and/or isolated CoaA biosynthetic enzymes, for example isolated CoaA or CoaX) are produced by recombinant DNA techniques and can be isolated from microorganisms of the present invention by an appropriate purification scheme using standard protein purification techniques. In another embodiment, proteins are synthesized chemically using standard peptide synthesis techniques.

An "isolated" or "purified" protein (e.g., an isolated or purified biosynthetic enzyme) is substantially free of cellular material or other contaminating proteins from the microorganism from which the protein is derived, or substantially free from chemical precursors or other chemicals when chemically synthesized. In one embodiment, an isolated or purified protein has less than about 30% (by dry weight) of contaminating protein or chemicals, more preferably less than about 20% of contaminating protein or chemicals, still more preferably less than about 10% of contaminating protein or chemicals, and most preferably less than about 5% contaminating protein or chemicals.

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In a preferred embodiment, the protein or gene product is derived from Bacillus (e.g., is Bacillus-derived). The term "derived from Bacillus" or "Bacillus-derived" includes a protein or gene product which is encoded by a Bacillus gene. Preferably, the gene product is derived from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of Bacillus subtilis, Bacillus lentimorbus, Bacillus lentus, Bacillus firmus, Bacillus pantothenticus, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus cereus, Bacillus circulans, Bacillus coagulans, Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus megaterium, Bacillus pumilus, Bacillus thuringiensis, and other Group 1 Bacillus species, for example, as characterized by 16S rRNA type (Priest, supra). In another preferred embodiment, the protein or gene product is derived from Bacillus brevis or Bacillus stearothermophilus. In another preferred embodiment, the protein or gene product is derived from a microorganism selected from the group consisting of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens, Bacillus halodurans, Bacillus subtilis, and Bacillus pumilus. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the protein or gene product is derived from Bacillus subtilis (e.g., is Bacillus subtilis-derived). The term "derived from Bacillus subtilis" or "Bacillus subtilis-derived" includes a protein or gene product which is encoded by a Bacillus subtilis gene. In yet another preferred embodiment, the protein or gene product is encoded by a Bacillus gene homologue (e.g., a gene derived from a species distinct from Bacillus but having significant homology to a Bacillus gene of the present invention, for example, a Bacillus pan gene or Bacillus ilv gene).

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Included within the scope of the present invention are bacterial-derived proteins or gene products and/or Bacillus-derived proteins or gene products (e.g., B. subtilisderived gene products) that are encoded by naturally-occurring bacterial and/or Bacillus genes (e.g., B. subtilis genes), for example, the genes identified by the present inventors, for example, Bacillus or B. subtilis coaX genes, coaA genes, pan genes and/or ilv genes. Further included within the scope of the present invention are bacterial-derived proteins or gene products and/or Bacillus-derived proteins or gene products (e.g., B. subtilisderived gene products) that are encoded bacterial and/or Bacillus genes (e.g., B. subtilis genes) which differ from naturally-occurring bacterial and/or Bacillus genes (e.g., B. subtilis genes), for example, genes which have nucleic acids that are mutated, inserted or deleted, but which encode proteins substantially similar to the naturally-occurring gene products of the present invention. For example, it is well understood that one of skill in the art can mutate (e.g., substitute) nucleic acids which, due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, encode for an identical amino acid as that encoded by the naturallyoccurring gene. Moreover, it is well understood that one of skill in the art can mutate (e.g., substitute) nucleic acids which encode for conservative amino acid substitutions. It is further well understood that one of skill in the art can substitute, add or delete

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amino acids to a certain degree without substantially affecting the function of a gene product as compared with a naturally-occurring gene product, each instance of which is intended to be included within the scope of the present invention.

In a preferred embodiment, an isolated protein of the present invention (e.g., an isolated pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme and/or an isolated isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme and/or an isolated CoaA biosynthetic enzymes, for example isolated CoaA or CoaX) has an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38 or SEQ ID NO:87. In other embodiments, an isolated protein of the present invention is a homologue of the at least one of the proteins set forth as SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38 or SEQ ID NO:87 (e.g., comprises an amino acid sequence at least about 30-40% identical, preferably about 40-50% identical, more preferably about 50-60% identical, and even more preferably about 60-70%, 70-80%, 80-90%, 90-95% or more identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38 or SEQ ID NO:87, and has an activity that is substantially similar to that of the protein encoded by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26, SEQ ID NO:28, SEQ ID NO:30, SEQ ID NO:32, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38 or SEQ ID NO:87, respectively.

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To determine the percent homology of two amino acid sequences or of two nucleic acids, the sequences are aligned for optimal comparison purposes (e.g., gaps can be introduced in the sequence of a first amino acid or nucleic acid sequence for optimal alignment with a second amino or nucleic acid sequence). When a position in the first sequence is occupied by the same amino acid residue or nucleotide as the corresponding position in the second sequence, then the molecules are identical at that position. The percent identity between the two sequences is a function of the number of identical positions shared by the sequences (i.e., % identity = # of identical positions/total # of positions x 100), preferably taking into account the number of gaps and size of said gaps necessary to produce an optimal alignment.

The comparison of sequences and determination of percent homology between two sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. A preferred, non-limiting example of a mathematical algorithm utilized for the comparison of sequences is the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul (1990) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 87:2264-68, modified as in Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:5873-77. Such

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an algorithm is incorporated into the NBLAST and XBLAST programs (version 2.0) of Altschul et al. (1990) J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-10. BLAST nucleotide searches can be performed with the NBLAST program, score = 100, wordlength = 12 to obtain nucleotide sequences homologous to nucleic acid molecules of the invention. BLAST protein searches can be performed with the XBLAST program, score = 50, wordlength = 3 to obtain amino acid sequences homologous to protein molecules of the invention. To obtain gapped alignments for comparison purposes, Gapped BLAST can be utilized as described in Altschul et al. (1997) Nucleic Acids Research 25(17):3389-3402. When utilizing BLAST and Gapped BLAST programs, the default parameters of the respective programs (e.g., XBLAST and NBLAST) can be used. See http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. Another preferred, non-limiting example of a mathematical algorithm utilized for the comparison of sequences is the algorithm of Myers and Miller (1988) Comput Appl Biosci. 4:11-17. Such an algorithm is incorporated into the ALIGN program available, for example, at the GENESTREAM network server, IGH Montpellier, FRANCE (http://vega.igh.cnrs.fr) or at the ISREC server (http://www.ch.embnet.org). When utilizing the ALIGN program for comparing amino acid sequences, a PAM120 weight residue table, a gap length penalty of 12, and a gap penalty of 4 can be used.

In another preferred embodiment, the percent homology between two amino acid sequences can be determined using the GAP program in the GCG software package (available at http://www.gcg.com), using either a Blossom 62 matrix or a PAM250 matrix, and a gap weight of 12, 10, 8, 6, or 4 and a length weight of 2, 3, or 4. In yet another preferred embodiment, the percent homology between two nucleic acid sequences can be accomplished using the GAP program in the GCG software package (available at http://www.gcg.com), using a gap weight of 50 and a length weight of 3.

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X. Biotransformations and Bioconversions

Another aspect of the present invention includes biotransformation processes which feature recombinant microorganisms (e.g., mutant microorganisms) and/or isolated CoA, pantothenate or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzymes described herein. The term "biotransformation process", also referred to herein as "bioconversion processes", includes biological processes which result in the production (e.g., transformation or conversion) of any compound (e.g., intermediate or product) which is upstream of a CoA, pantothenate or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme to a compound (e.g., substrate, intermediate or product) which is downstream of said CoA, pantothenate or isoleucine-valine biosynthetic enzyme.

In one embodiment, the invention features a biotransformation process for the production of a panto-compound comprising contacting a microorganism which overexpresses at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme with at least one appropriate substrate or precursor under conditions such that said panto-compound is 5 produced and recovering said panto-compound. In a preferred embodiment, the invention features a biotransformation process for the production of pantoate comprising contacting a microorganism which overexpresses ketopantoate reductase (the panE gene product) with an appropriate substrate (e.g., ketopantoate) under conditions such that pantoate is produced and recovering said pantoate. In another preferred embodiment, the invention features a biotransformation process for the production of pantothenate comprising contacting a microorganism which overexpresses ketopantoate reductase and pantothenate synthetase with appropriate substrates (e.g., ketopantoate and β-alanine) under conditions such that pantothenate is produced and recovering said pantothenate. In yet another preferred embodiment, the invention features a biotransformation process for the production of pantothenate comprising contacting a microorganism which overexpresses ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase and pantothenate synthetase with appropriate substrates (e.g., α-ketoisovalerate and βalanine) under conditions such that pantothenate is produced and recovering said pantothenate. Preferred recombinant microorganisms for carrying out the abovedescribed biotransformations include pantothenate kinase mutants. Conditions under which pantoate or pantothenate are produced can include any conditions which result in the desired production of pantoate or pantothenate, respectively.

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In yet another embodiment, the present invention includes a method of producing β-alanine that includes culturing a microorganism which overexpresses aspartate- α -decarboxylase under conditions such that β -alanine is produced. Preferably, the aspartate-α-decarboxylase-overexpressing microorganism has a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence encoding a pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme selected from the group consisting of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase and pantothenate synthetase.

The invention further features a method of producing β-alanine that includes contacting a composition comprising aspartate with an isolated Bacillus aspartate-adecarboxylase enzyme under conditions such that \beta-alanine is produced (e.g., an in vitro synthesis method).

The microorganism(s) and/or enzymes used in the biotransformation reactions are in a form allowing them to perform their intended function (e.g., producing a desired compound). The microorganisms can be whole cells, or can be only those portions of the cells necessary to obtain the desired end result. The microorganisms can be

suspended (e.g., in an appropriate solution such as buffered solutions or media), rinsed (e.g., rinsed free of media from culturing the microorganism), acetone-dried, immobilized (e.g., with polyacrylamide gel or k-carrageenan or on synthetic supports, for example, beads, matrices and the like), fixed, cross-linked or permeablized (e.g., have permeablized membranes and/or walls such that compounds, for example, substrates, intermediates or products can more easily pass through said membrane or wall).

Purified or unpurified CoA biosynthetic enzyme(s) (e.g., CoaA and/or CoaX), pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme(s) and/or valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme(s) can also be used in biotransformation reactions. The enzyme can be in a form that allows it to perform its intended function (e.g., obtaining the desired compound). For example, the enzyme can be in free form or immobilized. Purified or unpurified CoA biosynthetic enzyme(s), pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme(s) and/or valine-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme(s) can be contacted in one or more in vitro reactions with appropriate substrate(s) such that the desired product is produced.

With respect to at least the above-described methodologies (e.g., the production methodologies of the present invention), at least one aspect of the invention features the folowing: embodiments is which the methods do not use microorganisms of the genus Corynebacterium and/or microorganisms of the genus Escherichia; embodiments in which the methods do not use microorganisms selected from the group consiting of Escherichia coli and Corynebacterium glutamicum; embodiments in which the methods do not use gram negative microorganisms; embodiments in which the microorganisms utilized do not include, express or produce nucleic acid molecules, genes or proteins (e.g., biosynthetic emzymes) derived from microorganisms of the genus Corynebacterium and/or microorganisms of the genus Escherichia; embodiments in which the microorganisms to not include, express or produce nucleic acid molecules, genes or proteins (e.g., biosynthetic emzymes) derived from microorganisms selected from the group consisting of Escherichia coli and Corynebacterium glutamicum.

30 XI. Screening Assays

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Because CoA is an essential factor in bacteria, proteins (e.g., enzymes) involved in the biosynthesis of CoA provide valuable tools in the search for novel anti-biotics. In particular, the CoaX protein is a valuable target for identifying bacteriocidal compounds because it bears no resemblance in primary sequence to mammalian pantothenate kinase enzymes. Accordingly, the present invention also provides a method (also referred to herein as a "screening assay") for identifying modulators, i.e., candidate or test compounds or agents (e.g., peptides, peptidomimetics, small molecules or other drugs)

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which bind to CoaX, or have a stimulatory or inhibitory effect on, for example, coaX expression or CoaX activity.

In one embodiment, the invention provides assays for screening candidate or test compounds which are capable of binding to CoaX proteins or a biologically active portion thereof. In another embodiment, the invention provides assays for screening candidate or test compounds which modulate the activity of CoaX proteins or biologically active portions thereof. The test compounds of the present invention can be obtained using any of the numerous approaches in combinatorial library methods known in the art, including: biological libraries; spatially addressable parallel solid phase or solution phase libraries; synthetic library methods requiring deconvolution; the 'one-bead one-compound' library method; and synthetic library methods using affinity chromatography selection. The biological library approach is limited to peptide libraries, while the other four approaches are applicable to peptide, non-peptide oligomer or small molecule libraries of compounds (Lam, K.S. (1997) *Anticancer Drug Des.* 12:145).

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Examples of methods for the synthesis of molecular libraries can be found in the art, for example in: DeWitt et al. (1993) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 90:6909; Erb et al. (1994) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:11422; Zuckermann et al. (1994). J. Med. Chem. 37:2678; Cho et al. (1993) Science 261:1303; Carrell et al. (1994) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 33:2059; Carell et al. (1994) Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. Engl. 33:2061; and in Gallop et al. (1994) J. Med. Chem. 37:1233. Libraries of compounds may be presented in solution (e.g., Houghten (1992) Biotechniques 13:412-421), or on beads (Lam (1991) Nature 354:82-84), chips (Fodor (1993) Nature 364:555-556), bacteria (Ladner USP 5,223,409), spores (Ladner USP '409), plasmids (Cull et al. (1992) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 89:1865-1869) or on phage (Scott and Smith (1990) Science 249:386-390); (Devlin (1990) Science 249:404-406); (Cwirla et al. (1990) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 87:6378-6382); (Felici (1991) J. Mol. Biol. 222:301-310); (Ladner supra.).

In one embodiment, an assay is a microorganism-based assay in which a recombinant microorganism which expresses a CoaX protein or biologically active portion thereof is contacted with a test compound and the ability of the test compound to modulate CoaX activity is determined. Determining the ability of the test compound to modulate CoaX activity can be accomplished by monitoring, for example, intracellular phosphopanthoate or CoA concentrations or secreted pantothenate concentrations (as compounds that inhibit CoaX will result in a buildup of pantothenate in the test microorganism). CoaX substrate can be labeled with a radioisotope or enzymatic label such that modulation of CoaX activity can be determined by detecting a conversion of labeled substrate to intermediate or product. For example, CoaX substrates can be

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labeled with ³²P, ¹⁴C, or ³H, either directly or indirectly, and the radioisotope detected by direct counting of radioemmission or by scintillation counting. Determining the ability of a compound to modulate CoaX activity can alternatively be determined by detecting the induction of a reporter gene (comprising a CoA-responsive regulatory element operatively linked to a nucleic acid encoding a detectable marker, *e.g.*, luciferase), or detecting a CoA-regulated cellular response.

In yet another embodiment, a screening assay of the present invention is a cell-free assay in which a CoaX protein or biologically active portion thereof is contacted with a test compound *in vitro* and the ability of the test compound to bind to or modulate the activity of the CoaX protein or biologically active portion thereof is determined. In a preferred embodiment, the assay includes contacting the CoaX protein or biologically active portion thereof with known substrates to form an assay mixture, contacting the assay mixture with a test compound, and determining the ability of the test compound to modulate enzymatic activity of the CoaX on its substrates.

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Screening assays can be accomplished in any vessel suitable for containing the microorganisms, proteins, and/or reactants. Examples of such vessels include microtiter plates, test tubes, and micro-centrifuge tubes. In more than one embodiment of the above assay methods of the present invention, it may be desirable to immobilize either CoaX protein or a recombinant microorganism expressing CoaX protein to facilitate separation of products and/or substrates, as well as to accommodate automation of the assay. For example, glutathione-S-transferase/CoaX fusion proteins can be adsorbed onto glutathione sepharose beads (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) or glutathione derivatized microtiter plates. Other techniques for immobilizing proteins on matrices (e.g., biotin-conjugation and streptavidin immobilization or antibody conjugation) can also be used in the screening assays of the invention.

In another embodiment, modulators of CoaX expression are identified in a method wherein a cell is contacted with a candidate compound and the expression of coaX mRNA or CoaX polypeptide in the cell is determined. The level of expression in the presence of the candidate compound is compared to the level of expression in the absence of the candidate compound (or to a suitable control, for example, an appropriate buffer control or standard). The candidate compound can then be identified as a modulator of coaX mRNA or CoaX polypeptide expression based on this comparison.

This invention further pertains to novel agents identified by the above-described screening assays. Accordingly, it is within the scope of this invention to further use an agent identified as described herein in an appropriate animal model. For example, an CoaX modulating agent identified as described herein (e.g., an anti-bactericidal

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compound) can be used in an infectious animal model to determine the efficacy, toxicity, or side effects of treatment with such an agent.

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This invention is further illustrated by the following examples which should not be construed as limiting. The contents of all references, patents, patent applications (including U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/400,494, filed September 21, 1999 (pending), provisional U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/210,072, filed June 7, 2000, provisional U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/221,938, filed July 28, 2000 and provisional U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/227,860, filed August 24, 2000, to which this application relates) and published patent applications cited throughout this application are incorporated herein by reference.

EXAMPLES

General Methodology:

Strains. Bacillus subtilis strains of the present invention are generally derived from either of two strains. The first is variously named "168", "1A1", or "RL-1". The genotype is trpC2. This strain was derived from the wild type "Marburg" strain by mutagenesis and has been the basis of much of the molecular biology work done on B. subtilis. The second strain is PY79, a prototrophic derivative of 168 that was made Trp⁺ by transduction from the wild type strain W23.

Media. Standard minimal medium for B. subtilis is comprised of 1 x Spizizen salts and 0.5% glucose. Standard solid "rich medium" is Tryptone Blood Agar Broth (Difco), and standard liquid "rich medium" is VY, a mixture of veal infusion broth and yeast extract. For testing production of pantothenate in liquid test tube cultures, an enriched form of VY, called "Special VY" or "SVY" is used. For batch fermentations, SVYG and PFMG are used. The compositions of these media are given below.

VY, a rich liquid medium: 25 g Difco Veal Infusion Broth, 5 g Difco Yeast Extract, 1L water (autoclave).

TBAB, a rich solid medium: 33 g Difco Tryptone Blood Agar Broth, 1L water (autoclave).

MIN, a minimal medium: 100 ml 10 x Spizizen salts; 10 ml 50% glucose; 2 ml 10% arginine HCl*; 10 ml 0.8% tryptophan**; water to 1 liter. (*In some cases, arginine is omitted or replace by sodium glutamate at 0.04% final concentration. In general, B. subtilis grows faster in minimal medium when certain amino acids, such as arginine, glutamine, glutamate, or proline, are added as an auxiliary nitrogen source.)

(**For strains that are tryptophan auxotrophs, tryptophan is routinely added to most minimal media.)

10 x Spizizen Salts: 174 g K₂HPO₄·3H₂O; 20 g (NH₄)₂SO₄; 60 g KH₂PO₄; 10 g Na₃Citrate·2H₂O; 2 g MgSO₄·7H₂O; water to 993 mls; then add 3.5 ml FeCl₃ solution and 3.5 ml Trace Elements solution.

FeCl₃Solution: 4 g FeCl₃·6H₂O; 197 g Na₃Citrate·2H₂O; water to 1 liter (filter 30 sterilize)

Trace Elements Solution: 0.15 g Na₂MoO₄·2H₂O; 2.5 g H₃BO₃; 0.7 g CoCl₂·6H₂O; 0.25 g CuSO₄·5H₂O; 1.6 g MnCl₂·4H₂O; 0.3 g ZnSO₄·7H₂O; water to 1 liter (filter sterilize).

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SVY, Special VY, a supplemented* rich medium for testing pantothenate production in test tube cultures: 25 g Difco Veal Infusion Broth; 5 g Difco yeast extract; 5 g sodium glutamate; 2.7 g ammonium sulfate; 740 ml water (autoclave); add 200 ml 1 M potassium phosphate, pH 7.0; 60 ml 50% glucose. (*For testing pantothenate production in liquid SVY test tube cultures, Na α-ketoisovalerate and/or β-alanine can be added to a concentration of 5 g/L from filter-sterilized stocks.)

PFMG, a yeast extract based medium used in fermentors: 20 g Amberex 1003™ yeast extract; 5 g sodium glutamate, 2 g ammonium sulfate; 5 g tryptophan; 10 g KH₂PO4; 20 g K₂HPO₄·3H₂O; 1 g MgCl₂·6H₂O; 0.1 g CaCl₂·2H₂O; 1 g sodium citrate; 0.01 g FeSO₄·7H₂O; 1 ml trace elements solution; 20 g glucose; add water to 1 L. Glucose or other sugars are fed as needed. Feed solutions can contain minerals, defined or food grade nutrients.

PF, a chemically defined pantothenate free medium for testing pantothenate auxotrophy: 100 ml 10 x Spizizen Salts; 100 ml 1 x Difco Pantothenate Assay Medium; 10 ml 50% glucose; water to 1 liter.

For pantothenate auxotrophs, 1 mM Na pantothenate is added to both minimal and rich media, since there is generally not enough pantothenate in rich media to support *B. subtilis pan* mutants. Amino acids are at 100 mg per liter, when used. Selection for antibiotic resistance is done with 5 mg/L chloramphenicol, 100 mg/L spectinomycin HCl, 15 mg/L tetracycline HCl, or 1 mg/L erythromycin plus 25 mg/L lincomycin.

Pantothenate Assays: Biological assay. The indicator organism, Lactobacillus plantarum, requires pantothenate for growth, and responds to low concentrations (μg/L).
Thus, using serial dilutions, a wide range of concentrations can be assayed.
Commercially available medium (e.g., Pantothenate Assay Medium (PAM), Difco), can be used. However, Difco PAM supplemented with pantothenate does not support growth to the same level as obtainable using a fresh-mixed version of Pantothenate Assay Medium (FM-PAM), made up of the individual components as specified by
Difco, which is accordingly, routinely used instead of the commercial product.

Before assaying *B. subtilis* culture supernatants, the *B. subtilis* cells must be either removed or killed. *B. subtilis* culture supernatants give approximately the same pantothenate titer when the supernatants are autoclaved as when they are sterile filtered. Accordingly, routine procedures involve autoclaving samples for 5 minutes prior to the biological assay.

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Pantothenate Assays: HPLC assay. Pantothenic acid production is measured by HPLC with a detector wavelength of 197 nm and a reference at 450 nm. The procedure is a modification of one recommended by Hewlett-Packard for water soluble vitamins. Samples of culture broth are diluted into an equal volume of 60% acetronitrile (ACN), centrifuged and filtered. Typically a further 10-fold dilution before analysis brings the final dilution to 20-fold. Higher concentrations of product are diluted further. Compounds are separated on a C18 Phenomenex 5μ Aqua 250 x 4.6 mm column with 5% acetronitrile (ACN) in 50 mM Na phosphate buffer at pH 2.5. An ACN gradient from 5% to 95% washes the column between every sample. The area of the pantothenate peak is proportional to the concentration between 5 to 1000 mg/L. Other panto-compounds are also separated and quantitated by this method.

Amino Acid Analysis: HPLC assay. Amino acids present in the fermentation medium and throughout the fermentation are measured by HPLC with a detector wavelength of 338 nm and a reference at 390 nm. The procedure is a modification of one recommended by Hewlett-Packard for amino acid analysis. Samples of culture broth are prepared identically as for the panto-compound analysis. Compounds are separated on a C18 Hypersil 5μ ODS 200×2.1 mm column. Solvent A is 20 mM Na acetate buffer at pH 7.2. Solvent B contains 40% ACN and 40% methanol. A gradient from 100% Solvent A to 100% Solvent B separates amino acids and washes the column between every sample.

Batch Fermentations. Pantothenate producing strains are grown in stirred tank fermentors, for example, in CF3000 Chemap 14 liter vessels with 10 liter working volumes. Computer control and data collection is by commercial software, for example, B. Braun Biotech MFCS software. Fermentations can be batch processes but are preferably sugar-limited, fed batch processes. Some media components (e.g. of SVYG and PMFG) are added to the fermentor and sterilized in place. Portions of the media are sterilized separately and added to the fermentors aseptically. This procedure is well known to those familiar with the art. Additional nitrogen sources in feeds are sterilized separately and added to the carbon source after cooling.

The initial sugar in the medium is consumed in approximately 6 hours.

Afterwards, glucose or other sugars are fed with the possible addition of minerals, and defined or food grade nutrients. Alternatively, feeds are scheduled based on a consensus profile of nutritional requirements from samples taken from earlier fermentations.

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After inoculation, agitation is set at a relatively low speed, *e.g.* 200 rpm. When the dissolved oxygen (pO2) falls to 30%, computer control automatically adjusts the agitation to maintain a dissolved oxygen concentration between 25 and 30% pO2.

5 EXAMPLE I: Enhanced Production of a Panto-Compound Using Bacteria Overexpressing *panBCD* Gene Products.

This Example describes the cloning of the *B. subtilis panBCD* operon and the generation of microorganisms overexpressing the *panBCD* gene products.

To clone the *B. subtilis panBCD* operon, a plasmid library of *B. subtilis* GP275 (a derivative of 168) genomic DNA was transformed in *E. coli* BM4062 (*birA*^{ts}), and temperature resistant clones were selected at 42°C. By comparison of restriction maps to the genome sequence, one particular clone was deduced to contain the *B. subtilis birA* gene and the adjacent *panBCD* genes. This plasmid was named pAN201.

To overexpress the panBCD operon and produce pantothenate, the native promoter of the panBCD operon was replaced by either of two strong, constitutive promoters derived from the B. subtilis bacteriophage SP01. These two promoters are named P_{26} and P_{15} . In addition, either of two artificial ribosome binding sites (RBSs) were used to replace the native panB RBS. These two artificial RBSs (set forth as SEQ ID NO:49 and SEQ ID NO:50) were predicted to increase translation of panBCD; their sequences are shown in Table 1A. Three such engineered panBCD expression cassettes were built into circular plasmids capable of replicating in E. coli. Other features of the plasmids include a strong rho-independent transcription terminator from the E. coli ribosomal RNA transcription unit, called T₁T₂, a Gram-positive chloramphenicol resistance gene (cat), derived from pC194, and a pair of NotI restriction sites at the junctions between the E. coli replicon and the segment intended for integration into B. subtilis. Three plasmids of this series, pAN004, pAN005, and pAN006 were constructed. pAN004 contains the P₂₆ promoter, RBS1, and a low copy E. coli replicon. pAN005 contains the P_{15} promoter, which in our experience is not as strong as P_{26} , RBS1, and the low copy replicon. pAN006 contains the P_{26} promoter, RBS2, and a medium copy replicon.

The three panBCD expression cassettes contained in the above-mentioned three plasmids were all ligated to a DNA fragment consisting of sequences that naturally occur immediately upstream from the native panB gene and integrated in single copy by homologous recombination into the panBCD locus of B. subtilis strains RL-1 and PY79, replacing the wild-type operon. This was accomplished in two steps. First a deletion-substitution that replaced about two thirds of the panB coding region with a Gram-

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positive spectinomycin resistance gene (spec) was integrated at panB to yield Spec, pantothenate auxotrophs. These intermediate strains were than transformed with the panBCD expression cassettes of pAN004, pAN005, and pAN006 after ligating them to a DNA fragment containing chromosomal sequences just upstream of panB. Selection of the incoming cassette was for pantothenate prototrophy. The resulting strains were named PA221, PA222 and PA223 (from RL-1), and PA235, PA232 and PA233 (from PY79), respectively. An example of a plasmid that contains the joined upstream sequence that is in the integrated strain in PA221 is pAN240 (see Figure 2). The nucleotide sequence of pAN240 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:76.

Polymerase chain reaction using appropriate primers was used to verify the correct chromosomal structures of these engineered strains. When extracts of strain PA221 were examined by SDS-PAGE, two proteins were found to be overexpressed. One protein had an apparent molecular weight of 29,000 and the other protein appeared to be 39,000 daltons. The 29,000 dalton bands is presumably PanB (predicted molecular weight of 29,761). The larger protein band presumably represents PanC (predicted size 15 31,960 daltons).

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The ability of these strains to produce pantothenate in test tube cultures was assesed as follows. Each strain was grown in SVY medium supplemented with 5 g/L αketoisovalerate (α-KIV) and 5 g/L β-alanine, to ensure that these precursors were not limiting. Culture supernatants were autoclaved and assayed using the bioassay. Relative to the parent strains, RL-1 and PY79, the engineered strains produced about 8to 30-fold more pantothenate, attaining 1 g/L pantothenate in some cases.

Table 2. Production of pantothenate by engineered B. subtilis strains in liquid test tube cultures grown in SVY medium with 5 g/L α -KIV and 5 g/L β -alanine.

Expt.	Strain	Promoter	RBS at panB	[pantothenate] mg/L
1	RL-1	Native	Native	30
	PA221	P ₂₆	RBS1	990 790
	PA222	P ₁₃	RBS1	250 250
	PA223	P ₂₆	RBS2	790 790
2	PY79	Native	Native	40
	PA235	P ₂₆	RBS1	930 860
	PA221	P ₂₆	RBS1	1100 1030

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The P_{26} promoter was about 3- to 4-fold more effective than the P_{15} promoter, while RBS1 and RBS2 were roughly equivalent. Plasmids such as pAN004, pAN005, pAN006 can also be recombined as circles into the B. subtilis wild type panBCD locus by Campbell-type (single crossover) integration, selecting for chloramphenicol resistance at 5 mg/L. Strains obtained in this fashion produce about the same amount of pantothenate as strains PA221, PA222, and PA223, respectively. pAN004 containing the P_{26} promoter, RBS1 and a low copy E. coli replicon, is depicted schematically in Figure 3A. The nucleotide sequence of plasmid pAN004 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:93. pAN006 containing the P_{26} promoter, RBS2 and a medium copy E. coli replicon, is depicted schematically in Figure 3B. The nucleotide sequence of plasmid pAN006 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:94. The nucleotide sequence of panBCD is set forth as SEQ ID NO:59 and the predicted amino acid sequences of PanB, PanC and PanD are set forth as SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:28, respectively. Methods for manipulating Bacilli are described, for example, in Harwood, C.R. and Cutting, S.M. (editors), Molecular Biological Methods for Bacillus (1990) John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Chichester, England, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

EXAMPLE II: Enhanced Production of a Panto-Compound Using Bacteria Overexpressing the *panE1* Gene Product – Ketopantoate Reductase.

This Example describes the cloning of the *B. subtilis panE1* gene and the generation of microorganisms overexpressing the *panE1* gene product.

5 Pan B. subtilis strains (e.g., B. subtilis mutants blocked in the synthesis of pantothenic acid) had previously been isolated, one of which was reported to be affected in ketopantoate reductase activity (Baigori et al. (1991) J. Bacteriol. 173:4240-4242). However, the mutations in these strains were incorrectly mapped to the *purE-tre* interval of the B. subtilis genetic map which does not contain the panE or panBCD genes. 10 Furthermore as shown below, a panE mutant does not have a Pan phenotype as the ilvC gene product can substitute for the panE gene product in B. subtilis as in other bacterial strains such as E. coli. More recently, the S. typhimuruim panE gene has been located and determined to be allelic to apbA, a gene required for anaerobic purine biosynthesis (Frodyma et al. (1998) J. Biol. Chem. 273:5572-5576). E. coli carries a highly 15 homologous gene at the same map location. Identification of the panE genes in E. coli and S. typhimurium was complicated by the fact that the ilvC gene product, acetohydroxy acid isomeroreductase, is also capable of carrying out the ketopantoate reductase reaction. As a result, pantothenate auxotrophy is not obtained unless both panE and ilvC are mutated.

. 20 To identify the B. subtilis panEl gene, the B. subtilis genome was searched using the protein sequence of E. coli or S. typhimurium ApbA (PanE), and two open reading frames were identified having homology to ApbA, named ylbQ and ykpB. These genes were renamed panE1 and panE2, due to their proposed function in pantothenate biosynthesis. Both panE1 and panE2 were cloned as PCR products generated from RL-1 genomic DNA as a template. Both genes were disrupted by either a 25 spectinomycin resistance gene (spec) or a chloramphenicol resistance gene (cat). The interrupted genes were each integrated by double crossover into PY79 to give PA240 (ΔpanEl::spec) and PA241 (ΔpanE2::cat). Neither of these strains were pantothenate auxotrophs when tested on pantothenate-free (PF) plates, although PA240 containing ApanEl::spec grew slightly more slowly on TBAB without added pantothenate than 30 with a 1 mM pantothenate supplement. By comparison, a ΔpanB::spec strain does not produce single colonies on TBAB, presumably because B. subtilis has no active uptake system for pantothenate.

It was hypothesized that the *B. subtilis* gene, *ilvC*, could function for *panE* as had been shown for *E. coli*. Accordingly, the *panE1* and *panE2* disruptions were introduced into a strain, CU550, which is reported to be *trpC2 ilvC4 leuC124*. Both the single

panE1 and the double panE1, panE2 disruptants were pantothenate auxotrophs on PF medium.

Table 3. Phenotypes of various panE1 and panE2 mutants on rich and defined media.

Strain	Medium	Growth*: - pan	+ pan	
PY79	TBAB	+++	+++	_
	PF	++	++	
PA240	TBAB spec	+	+++	
	PF	++	++	
PA241	TBAB cam	+++	+++	
	PF	++	++	
CU550	TBAB	+++	+++	
	PF	++	++	
PA256	TBAB spec	-	+++	
	PF	-	++	
PA258	TBAB spec, cam	-	+++	
	PF	-	++	

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Thus, mutating both panE1 and ilvC results in pantothenate auxotrophy, while mutating only panE1 does not, similar to what has been reported for E.coli and S.

10 typhimurium.

Next, the quantitative effect of panE1 and panE2 knockouts in a pantothenate overproducing strain (PA235 described herein) was examined. The panE1 and panE2 disruptions were introduced into PA235, either singly or together to produce PA245 ($\Delta panE1$::spec), PA248 ($\Delta panE2$::cat) and PA244 ($\Delta panE1$::cat, $\Delta panE2$::spec). The effect of each mutation on pantothenate production was then tested in liquid test tube cultures.

^{*}Each "+" represents about 1 mm of colony diameter after overnight at 37°C.

Table 4. Pantothenate production by PA235 derivatives containing panE1 and panE2 disruptions.

Strain	[pan] mg/L	% of PA235
PA235	990	(100)
PA235	940	95
PA245	59	6
PA245	82	8
PA248	1060	106
PA248	1030	104
PA244	25	3
PA244	50	5

Thus, deletion analysis indicated that the panE1 gene contributes to over 90% of the pantothenate production, while deletion of panE2 did not have a significant effect on pantothenate production. It is therefore concluded that panE1 accounts for most, but not necessarily all, of the ketopantoate reductase activity in B. subtilis. The rest of the ketopantoate reductase activity is predicted to be supplied by ilvC.

Having identified *panE1* as an important gene for pantothenate production, increased *panE1* expression was tested to determine whether it could enhance pantothenate production in strains such as PA221 or PA235. The *panE1* coding sequence was installed downstream of the *P*₂₆ promoter and RBS2 in a vector, pOTP61, designed to integrate and amplify at either the *bpr* locus (a non-essential protease gene) or at the locus of the cloned insert. The resulting plasmid, pAN236 (Figure 4) was transformed into PA221, selecting for resistance to tetracycline at 15 mg/L. The nucleotide sequence of pAN236 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:77. One transformant, named PA236 was chosen for further study.

PA236 was shown to overexpress a protein of about 31,000 daltons, which is close to the expected molecular weight of 33,290 daltons for panE1 protein. Briefly, whole cell extracts were prepared from PY79, RL-1, PA221, PA221/pOTP61and PA236 (2 samples). Cell extracts were separated by gel electrophoresis and the gels were coomassie stained to visualize proteins. In cells engineered to overexpress panE (PA236-1 and PA236-2), a band was visible having an approximate molecular weight of ~31,000 daltons (as compared to molecular weight markers). Moreover, PA221 and PA236 expressed increased levels of a ~29,000 dalton band, corresponding to the panB

gene product, and a ~39,000 dalton band, presumably corresponding the *panC* gene product. Furthermore, *E. coli* transformed with pAN006 (Figure 3B) expressed bands correlating to the *panB* and *panC* gene products and *E. coli* transfected with PAN236 expressed a ~31,000 dalton band corresponding to the *panE* gene product.

Next, PA236 was compared to PA221 carrying the empty vector pOTP61 for pantothenate production in liquid test tube cultures supplemented with 5 g/L β -alanine and 5 g/L α -KIV.

Table 5. Effect of overexpression of panE1 and panE2 on pantothenate production by engineered strains in liquid test tube cultures.

Strain	Additional Plasmid	Gene Overexpressed	[Pantothenate] mg/L
PA221	pOTP61	none	1,000
			940
PA236	pAN236	panE1	2,030
	•		2,050
PA238	pAN238	panE2	530
			680

Overexpression of panE1 caused a two-fold increase in pantothenate production when compared to the parent strain (e.g., to slightly over 2 g/L) whereas overexpression of panE2 resulted in a strain that produced about 35% less pantothenate than the parent strain. The panE1 nucleotide sequence and predicted amino acid sequence are set forth as SEQ ID NO:29 and SEQ ID NO:30.

EXAMPLE III: Enhanced Production of a Panto-Compound by Culturing Bacteria Overexpressing *panE1* or *panBCD* in the Presence of Valine.

The ability of valine to function as a media supplement (e.g., as a substitute for α-KIV) in strains engineered to overexpress the panBCD operon and panE1 was evaluated. Valine is closely related to α-KIV by transamination, is less expensive than α-KIV, and is commercially available in kilogram quantities. Valine was substituted for α-KIV in the standard liquid test tube cultures in SVY medium. The concentration of valine was varied from 5 to 50 g/L. Although valine at 5 g/L was slightly less effective

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than α -KIV in promoting pantothenate production, valine at 10 or 20 g/L equaled or surpassed 5 g/L α -KIV in promoting pantothenate production.

EXAMPLES IV-X Generation of Microorganisms Capable of Producing Pantothenate in a Precursor-Independent Manner

B. subtilis strains such as PA221 and PA235 (engineered to overexpress panBCD) and PA236 (engineered to overexpress panBCD and panE1) need to be fed α-ketoisovalerate (α-KIV) (or valine) and aspartate (or β-alanine) to achieve maximal pantothenate production, as both these precursors are limiting for pantothenate synthesis. Accordingly, manipulated microorganisms were designed to eliminate the need to feed limiting precursors of pantothenate biosynthesis in the production of pantothenate. These strains are also useful in the production of various pantothenate biosynthetic pathway intermediates.

15 EXAMPLE IV: Generation of Microorganisms Capable of Producing Pantothenate in an Aspartate- (or β-Alanine) Independent Manner

The panD gene was cloned into B. subtilis expression vector pOTP61 to construct pAN423 (Figure 5). The nucleotide sequence of pAN423 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:78. The NotI restriction fragment containing panD was isolated from pAN423, self ligated and used to transform PA221. Transformants resistant to Tet¹⁵, Tet³⁰, and Tet⁶⁰ were isolated and saved for further analysis.

Six of the pAN423 transformants plus two control transformants were grown in SVY containing 5 g/l α -KIV with and without 10 g/l aspartate and then assayed for pantothenate production (Table 6).

Table 6. Effect of overproducing PanD on pantothenate production with and without added aspartate.

Culture* (PA221 transformants)	Asp (10 g/L)	TetR** (µg/ml)	OD550	[pan] (mg/L)
pOTP61-1	-	60	8.0	76
pOTP61-2	-	60	7.7	91
423#1-1	-	15	8.5	180
423#1-2	-	15	8.0	150
423#1-3	T	30	8.3	220
423#1-4	-	30	8.5	280
423#1-5	-	60	8.9	580
423#1-6	-	60	8.8	280

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-	/\/	-

pOTP61-1	+	60	7.5	380
pOTP61-2	+	60	6.9	560
423#1-1	+	15	8.5	1200
423#1-2	+	15	8.6	1000
423#1-3	+	30	8.8	1200
423#1-4	+	30	9.0	1200
423#1-5	+	60	9.0	1200
423#1-6	+	60	9.0	1200

^{*}Test tubes cultures were grown in SVY + α -KIV (5 g/L) with Asp (10 g/L) where indicated.

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The pAN423 transformants produced at least twice the amount of pantothenate as the controls (*i.e.*, to a level at or near that which was obtained in earlier experiments by the addition of β -alanine to the culture medium). The data also show that in the absence of added aspartate, transformants containing additional copies of the *panD* gene expression cassette produce more pantothenate than the control transformants. One of the transformants, 423#1-5, produced about five times as much pantothenate as the controls. These results indicated that increased levels of PanD protein "pull" the conversion of available aspartate towards β -alanine, and that increasing *panD* gene expression can result in enhancement of pantothenate production both in the presence and absence of added aspartate.

Transformant 423#1-5 was re-named strain PA401 and studied further in shake flask fermentations. The shake flask medium was SVY with maltose instead of SVY with glucose. Results of shake flask experiments agreed well with test tube experiments during the first 24 hours. In shake flask experiments without the addition of β-alanine, PA401 produced approximately 1.5 g/l of pantothenate in 24 hours. Addition of β-alanine to the culture medium did not further improve pantothenate titers (Table 7), indicating that with this strain and these fermentation conditions, β-alanine is not limiting pantothenate production. In fact, when no β-alanine is fed, one can observe that PA401 is secreting β-alanine in significant amounts into the medium.

^{**}TetR = Approximate Tet-resistance of transformant

Table 7. Shake flask cultures with strain PA401 (panD) with and without β -alanine.

	Amino acids (g/l) 24 hours				
Initial β-ala Added	β-ala	Val	рН	OD ₆₀₀	Pantothenate (g/l)
0	0.7	1.5	7.5	13.7	1.5
5 g/l	7.1	1.4	7.6	12.4	1.5

Each value represents the average of duplicate 250 ml baffled flasks containing 50 ml of medium, incubated at 37°C with shaking (200 rpm).

Base Medium: SVY with 10 g/l $\alpha\text{-KIV},$ 30 g/l maltose

2% Inoculum: SVY with Tet¹⁵ grown 24 hours.

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EXAMPLE V: Engineering the *panD* gene for Further Increased Synthesis of Aspartate Decarboxylase and Enhanced Production of Pantothenate

This Example describes the generation of improved ribosome binding sites (RBSs) in the *panD* gene to increase the translation of *panD* mRNA.

Increasing the translation of the panD gene mRNA by generation of synthetic panD RBSs

- The RBS (SEQ ID NO:88) used to express panD in pAN423 is a synthetic RBS and has been used to successfully produce other proteins in B. subtilis at a high level. However, it contains six mismatches when aligned to the "ideal" B. subtilis RBS (SEQ ID NO:45) (e.g., an RBS having a sequence which is complementary to the 16S RNA sequence within the B. subtilis ribosome). (See e.g., Table 1B, mismatches in bold).
- Two new RBSs were designed to more closely mimic the ideal RBS. These synthetic RBSs, named new design A (NDA) and new design B (NDB) (also referred to herein as RBS3 and RBS4), are set forth as SEQ ID NO:51 and SEQ ID NO:52 and are aligned with the ideal RBS in Table 1B.

Oligonucleotides corresponding to the top and bottom strands of each new RBS were synthesized, annealed, then used to replace the RBS in pAN420, generating plasmids pAN426 and pAN427. These constructions are illustrated in Figure 6. The presence of the NDA and NDB RBS in pAN426 and pAN427 was confirmed by DNA sequence analysis. Next, the panD genes from pAN426 and pAN427 were transferred to B. subtilis expression vector pOTP61 as shown in Figure 7, creating pAN428 and pAN429. The nucleotide sequence of pAN429 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:79.

NotI restriction fragments lacking the *E. coli* vector sequences were isolated from pAN428 and pAN429, self-ligated, and used to transform strain PA221 to resistance to Tet¹⁵. Four isolates resistant to Tet⁶⁰ were picked from each transformation and assayed for pantothenate and β -alanine production along with PA221 transformed with the empty vector (pOTP61) and PA221 transformed with pAN423 (strain PA401) (see Table 8).

Table 8. Panthothenate production by test tube cultures of PA221 transformed with pAN428 and pAN429

Plasmid		Medium Supplements	OD ₅₅₀	Pan g/l	β-Ala g/l
pOTP61		α-KIV ⁵	10	UND	0.04
pAN423		α-KIV ⁵	10	0.4	0.04
pAN428-1	*	α -KIV $_{s}^{5}$	12	0.6	0.04
pAN428-2		α -KIV ⁵	11	0.5	0.03
pAN428-3		α -KIV ⁵	11	0.3	0.03
pAN428-4		α -KIV ⁵	10	0.1	UND
pAN429-1		α-KIV ⁵	12	0.6	0.04
pAN429-2		α -KIV ⁵	11	0.5	0.04
pAN429-3		α -KIV ⁵	11	0.6	0.05
pAN429-4	#	α-KIV ⁵	12	0.8	0.10
pOTP61			11	0.5	0.08
pAN423		α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰ α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	12	0.9	1.32
pAN428-1	*	a. KIV5 . A = 10	12	0.8	1.97
pAN428-2		α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	12	0.8	1.51
pAN428-3		α -KIV ⁵ + Asp 10	12	0.9	1.02
pAN428-4		α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	11	0.8	0.30
pAN429-1		α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	12	0.8	1.78
pAN429-2		α -KIV ³ + Asn ¹⁰	12	0.8	1.66
pAN429-3		α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	12	0.8	1.78
pAN429-4	#	α -KIV ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	13	0.8	2.28

UND: Below the limits of detection. * Renamed PA402 # Renamed PA403

When grown in medium supplemented with α -KIV at 5 g/l (α -KIV⁵), the pAN428-1 transformant and all four of the pAN429 transformants produced more

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pantothenate than did PA401, suggesting that these transformants contain higher levels of aspartate decarboxylase activity. When grown in medium supplemented with α-KIV⁵ and Asp¹⁰ none of the pAN428 or pAN429 transformants produced more pantothenate than PA401. However, the pAN428-1 transformant and all four of the pAN429 transformants produced significantly more β-alanine than did PA401. It is possible that the excess β-alanine produced from added aspartate causes inhibition of pantothenate production. Alternatively, β-alanine may accumulate because pantoate is limiting in these strains.

The strains that produced the highest level of β-alanine, the pAN428-1 and pAN429-4 transformants, were renamed PA402 and PA403, respectively. These two strains were grown in SVY medium supplemented with various intermediates and reassayed for pantothenate and β-alanine production. PA221 and PA401 were included as controls. The results of the assays are presented in Table 9.

15 Table 9. Pantothenate production of PA402 and PA403 in test tube cultures.

Strain	Medium Supplements	OD ₅₅₀	Pan g/l	β-Ala g/l	Val g/l
PA221	α-ΚΙV ⁵	7.9	UND	UND	0.9
PA401	α-ΚΙV ⁵	8.7	0.3	0.04	0.9
PA402	α-ΚΙV ⁵	8.5	0.5	0.04	0.9
PA403	α-ΚΙV ⁵	9.4	0.7	0.07	0.9
PA221 PA401 PA402 PA403	$\alpha\text{-KIV}^5 + \text{Asp}^{10}$ $\alpha\text{-KIV}^5 + \text{Asp}^{10}$ $\alpha\text{-KIV}^5 + \text{Asp}^{10}$ $\alpha\text{-KIV}^5 + \text{Asp}^{10}$	9.8 9.1 9.4 9.7	0.4 0.8 0.8 0.7	0.11 1.15 2.02 2.40	0.8 0.8 0.8
PA221	Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5	8.9	UND	UND	0.2
PA401		8.7	0.3	0.02	0.2
PA402		10.6	0.5	0.02	0.2
PA403		10.5	0.7	0.02	0.2
PA221	Pantoate ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	9.5	0.4	0.06	0.2
PA401		9.2	2.2	0.62	0.2
PA402		9.1	2.8	1.17	0.2
PA403		10.2	2.9	1.58	0.2

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UND: Below the limits of detection.

When grown in medium supplemented with either α-KIV⁵ or Pantoate⁵, PA402 and PA403 produced significantly more pantothenate than did PA401. As before, even though PA402 and PA403 produced significantly more β-alanine than PA401 when grown in medium supplemented with α-KIV⁵ and Asp¹⁰, they did not produce a proportional increase in pantothenate. However, when grown in medium supplemented with Pantoate⁵ plus Asp¹⁰, both PA402 and PA403 produced significantly more pantothenate than PA401, about a 30% increase.

It can be concluded from these experiments that the improved NDA and NDB panD ribosome binding sites, engineered into pAN428 and pAN429, respectively, lead to increased levels of aspartate decarboxylase activity.

Increasing the translation of the panD gene mRNA by generation of synthetic panD RBSs within the panBCD operon

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The native B. subtilis panD gene ribosome binding site (RBS) (SEO ID NO:43). which is found in the $P_{26}panBCD$ operon cassette present in PA221 (and in other engineered pantothenate production strains described herein), is shown in Table 1C aligned with the ideal ribosome binding site (SEQ ID NO:47). The alignment shows mismatches between the native B. subtilis panD gene RBS, which is located within the coding sequence for PanC, and the the ideal RBS. Three new RBSs (within the P26 panBCD operon cassette) were generated to increase translation of the panD gene mRNA and to yield increased synthesis of aspartate decarboxylase. These synthetic RBSs (termed NDI, NDII, and NDIII, also referred to herein as RBS5, RBS6 and RBS7, respectively) are set forth as SEQ ID NO:55, SEQ ID NO:56 and SEQ ID NO:57, respectively) and are included in Table 1C. It should be noted that although changes in the panD RBS within the panBCD operon also changes the C-terminal amino acid sequence of the PanC protein encoded by that operon, an alignment of known and suspected PanC protein amino acid sequences showed that the sequence of the last nine amino acids of the B. subtilis PanC protein could be altered without affecting any conserved amino acid residues indicating that such changes should not reduce pantothenate synthetase activity or expression. The new RBSs were synthesized and incorporated into the P_{26} panBCD operon expression cassette as follows.

First, PCR primers were designed to contain the following elements: (1) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the first five amino acids of PanD up to and including a unique BsiWI restriction site that had been previously introduced into panD by PCR; (2)

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a stop codon for panC, (3) at least one synthetic RBS; and (4) 30-39 bp of nucleic acid sequence having 100% identity with panC upstream of the panD RBS. The primers were named TP102, TP103, and TP104 and contain the NDI, NDII, and NDIII ribosome binding sites, respectively. These three primers were used in conjunction with the 5' primer TP101, which hybridizes near the start codon of panC, in three independent PCR reactions to generate the NDI, NDII, and NDIII PCR products. The PCR products were purified, digested with XbaI, then cloned into plasmid vector pASK-1BA3 which had been digested with Xbal and Smal. The resulting plasmids were named pAN431, pAN432, and pAN433. The construction of pAN431 is illustrated in Figure 8 and is representative of all three plasmid constructions. The presence of the desired synthetic panD gene RBS in each new plasmid was confirmed by DNA sequencing.

Next, the modified panC genes containing the new panD RBSs were joined with the panD gene utilizing the unique BsiWI restriction site. This was accomplished by isolating the appropriate NsiI-BsiWI restriction fragments from pAN431, pAN432, and pAN433 and ligating them with a 2395 bp NsiI-BsiWI restriction fragment from pAN420, which supplied the BsiWI-modified panD gene. These constructions resulted in plasmids pAN441, pAN442, and pAN443, respectively. A representative construction (pAN441) is illustrated in Figure 9. The nucleotide sequence of pAN443 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:80.

The new panD gene RBSs were then substituted into the $P_{26}panBCD$ operon expression cassette as follows. First, a deletion-insertion mutation which removes the region of panC containing the panD RBS was created. This was constructed by digesting pAN430 with a mixture of BspE1 and Bg/II and recovering the 4235 bp fragment which is now missing the 3' end of panC and the 5' end of panD. This 25 fragment was ligated with an Aval-BamHI restriction fragment from plasmid pECC4, which contains the chloramphenical acetyl transferase (cat) gene. The 5' extension produced by AvaI digestion is compatible with that produced by BspEI while the BglII and BamHI extensions are also compatible. The resulting plasmid was named pAN440, and its construction is illustrated in Figure 10.

The resulting deletion-insertion mutation was crossed into the P_{26} panBCD operon via homologous recombination by transforming PA221 with linearized pAN440 and selecting for resistance to chloramphenicol on Cam⁵ plates containing 1 mM pantothenate. Several transformants were tested, and were all found to require 1 mM pantothenate for growth, as expected. Two of these transformants were remaned PA408A and PA408B and were assayed for pantothenate production. Neither strain synthesized measurable quantities of pantothenate, even when grown in medium

containing pantoate and β -alanine at 5 g/l, indicating that the strains are deficient in pantothenate synthetase activity. Next, the new panD RBSs were crossed into the P_{26} panBCD operon by transforming PA408 with linearized pAN441, pAN442, and pAN443 plasmid DNA and selecting for growth on TBAB plates without pantothenate supplementation. A transformation with linearized pAN430 (including the native panD RBS) was included as a control and was expected to give rise to transformants identical to PA221 described herein. Four isolates from each transformation were assayed for pantothenate and β -alanine production in SVY medium supplemented with various intermediates (Tables 10 and 11).

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Table 10. Pantothenate production of PA410 - PA413 in test tube cultures.

Strain	RBS	Medium Supplements	OD550	Pan g/l	β-Ala g/l
PA221	native	Pantoate ⁵	11	UND	UND
PA410-1 PA410-2 PA410-3 PA410-4	native	Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5	12 12 12 12	UND UND UND UND	UND UND UND UND
PA411-1 PA411-2 PA411-3 PA411-4	NDI	Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5	12 12 12 12	0.23 0.20 0.19 UND	UND UND UND UND
PA412-1 PA412-2 PA412-3 PA412-4	NDII	Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5	12 11 13 12	UND UND 0.18 0.18	UND UND UND UND
PA413-1 PA413-2 PA413-3 PA413-4	NDIII	Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate 5 Pantoate	12 12 12 12	0.18 0.17 0.16 0.17	UND UND UND UND

UND: Below the limits of detection.

Table 11. Pantothenate production of PA410 - PA413 in test tube cultures.

Strain	RBS	Medium Supplements	OD550	Pan g/l	β-Ala g/l
PA221	native	Pantoate ⁵ + Asp ¹⁰	11	0.3	UND
PA410-1 PA410-2 PA410-3 PA410-4	native	Pantoate 5 + Asp 10	12 12 12 12	0.4 0.4 0.4 0.4	UND UND UND UND
PA411-1 PA411-2 PA411-3 PA411-4	NDI	Pantoate 5 + Asp 10	13 13 13 13	1.7 1.7 1.8 0.4	0.4 0.4 0.3 UND
PA412-1 PA412-2 PA412-3 PA412-4	NDII	Pantoate 5 + Asp 10	13 12 12 12	0.4 0.4 1.6 1.5	UND UND 0.3 0.2
PA413-1 PA413-2 PA413-3 PA413-4	NDIII	Pantoate 5 + Asp 10	13 13 13 13	1.6 1.6 1.7 1.7	0.3 0.4 0.4 0.4

UND: Below the limits of detection.

As expected from previous experiments using PA221, none of the transformants that contained the native *panD* RBS produced measurable quantities of pantothenate when grown in medium supplemented with pantoate. However, nine of the twelve transformants expected to contain modified *panD* RBSs produced significant quantities of pantothenate (160-230 mg/l) under these conditions, indicating that they possess elevated levels of aspartate decarboxylase activity. When grown in medium supplemented with both pantoate and aspartate, these same nine transformants produced approximately four times more pantothenate than those with the native *panD* RBS. In addition, these nine transformants accumulated measurable quantities of β-alanine (230-410 mg/l). All transformants produced roughly equivalent quantities of pantothenate when grown in medium containing pantoate and β-alanine, demonstrating that each contains a functional pantothenate synthetase.

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These data demonstrate that the synthetic panD RBSs are about four times more effective than the native panD RBS in directing translation of the panD gene mRNA and evidence the utility of such synthetic RBSs in enhancing pantothenate production.

Additional approaches to increasing pantothenate production can include, for example, increasing the half-life of the panD gene mRNA, increasing the strength of the promoter for panD transcription and/or increasing the stability of the PanD protein.

EXAMPLE VI: Construction of Strains Containing an Integrated P_{26} panE1 Cassette without an Antibiotic Resistance Gene.

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Example II describes the identification of the *B. subtilis panE1* gene that encodes the enzyme responsible for the majority of the ketopantoate reductase activity in *B. subtilis*. PA236 (containing the pAN236 plasmid) produced about twice as much pantothenate (2 g/l) as its parent strain, PA221 (1 g/l) in 24 hour SVY test tube cultures. PA236 was presumed to contain an amplified (\sim 3 copies) integrated pAN236 plasmid based on selection for tetracycline resistance (the tetR gene product being encoded on the pAN236 plasmid in addition to the P_{26} panE1 cassette). Also useful in the methodologies of the present invention are strains that contain a single integrated unamplifiable copy of P_{26} panE1 at the panE1 locus, for example, without an antibiotic resistance gene in the strain. Such a strain was generated as follows.

A plasmid named pAN251 was derived from pAN236 by inserting additional chromosomal sequences just upstream and just downstream from the P₂₆ panE1 cassette. These additional sequences, which provide homology to allow integration of the P₂₆ panE1 cassette at panE1 by double crossover, were obtained by PCR from chromosomal DNA as a template. pAN251 is shown in Figure 11. The nucleotide sequence of pAN251 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:81.

Next, a strain was constructed which allowed selection for the incoming P_{26} panE1 cassette. The strain included the following three components: (1) P_{26} panBCD; (2) $\Delta panE1$; and (3) ilvC, since both panE1 and ilvC must be mutated to have a Pan phenotype. The starting strain was CU550 (trpC2, ilvC4, leuC124). The P_{26} panBCD cassette from PA221 chromosomal DNA was introduced in two steps to create strain PA290. Next, $\Delta panE1::spec$ was transformed into PA290, using chromosomal DNA from strain PA240, to give strain PA294 (trpC2, ilvC4, leuC124, P_{26} panBCD, $\Delta panE1::spec$), which is a strict pantothenate auxotroph. Finally, PA294 was transformed with plasmid pAN251, selecting for pantothenate prototrophy, to give strain PA303. This strain was expected to have the genotype trpC2, ilvC4, leuC124, P_{26}

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panBCD, P_{26} panE1. PA303 was checked for the correct chromosomal structure at the panE1 locus by PCR using primers that flank the P_{26} insertion just upstream of panE1. The PCR product from PA303 was of the expected size, with a concomitant loss of the PCR product from the wild type panE1 gene, consistent with having obtained the desired double crossover event. Furthermore, PA303 was tetracycline sensitive, which is also consistent with the desired double crossover event, as opposed to a Campbell-type single crossover of the plasmids into the chromosome. The trp, ilv, and leu auxotrophies from the parent strain were all maintained in PA303.

In 24 hour liquid SVY test tube cultures, PA303 produced almost the same level of pantothenate as positive control PA236, and about twice as much as PA221, which does not contain engineered *panE1* as indicated in Table 12.

Table 12. Pantothenate production by 24 hr. test tube cultures of PA303 and controls grown in SVY plus 5 g/l \alpha-KIV and 5 g/l \beta-alanine.

Strain	OD600	[pan] g/l
PA221-1	10.9	0.85
PA221-2	10.5	0.85
PA236-1	9.5	1.74
PA236-2	9.3	1.70
PA303-1	10.8	1.66
PA303-2	10.7	1.61

EXAMPLE VII: Generation of Microorganisms Capable of Producing Pantothenate in an α-KIV (or Valine) Independent Manner

20 α-ketoisovalerate (α-KIV) is a rate limiting intermediate for pantothenate production in certain strains deregulated for pantothenate synthesis. Addition of either α-KIV or valine at 5 g/l increases pantothenate production about 5-fold in test tube cultures with strains such as PA221. In order to alleviate the need to feed either α-KIV or valine, strains were engineered that have an increased capacity to synthesize α-KIV.

 α -KIV is produced in *B. subtilis* from pyruvate by the sequential action of three enzymes encoded by four genes, ilvB and ilvN, ilvC, and ilvD. In a wild type *B. subtilis*, three of the genes (ilvB, ilvN, and ilvC) are the first three genes of the large ilv-leu operon. The fourth gene necessary for α -KIV synthesis, ilvD, is located by itself elsewhere on the chromosome. The *B. subtilis ilv*-leu operon is thought to be regulated

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only by leucine levels. Feeding of exogenous leucine reduces transcription of the *ilv-leu* operon by about 13-fold, probably by an attenuation mechanism (Grandoni *et al.* (1992) *J. Bacteriol.* 174: 3212-3219). The only known feedback regulation in the *ilv-leu* pathway is the inhibition of the *leuA* gene product by leucine.

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As a first step to deregulate the synthesis of α -KIV, a copy of the *ilvBNC* region from the wild type *B. subtilis ilv-leu* operon was isolated by PCR, and installed adjacent to the P_{26} promoter and RBS2 on a vector, pOLL8, that was designed to integrate a single P_{26} expression cassette by double recombination at the *amyE* locus. The *amyE* gene encodes a nonessential α -amylase, and is a useful locus for installing expression cassettes. The resulting plasmid, pAN267, is illustrated in Figure 12. The nucleotide sequence of pAN267 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:82. pAN267 readily gave stable transformants by double crossover at the *amyE* locus of *B. subtilis* strains, as described in detail below.

Construction of pantothenate overproducing strains that are leucine prototrophs

Initially, a *B. subtilis* strain containing *ilvC4* and $\Delta panE1$ was used to introduce a single copy of P_{26} panE1 into the chromosome without using an antibiotic resistance gene. The double mutant was required to select for the incoming P_{26} panE1 cassette because a $\Delta panE1$ mutation alone does not result in pantothenate auxotrophy. A strain named CU550 was obtained containing *ilvC4* to be used as a basis for this type of strain construction. However, CU550 also contains a closely linked *leuC124* mutation, so all strains derived from CU550 required leucine. Having shown that the combination of P_{26} panE1 was favorable for pantothenate production, the next step was to reassemble this combination of two cassettes in a leucine prototroph.

Accordingly, the two cassettes were combined in two different strain backgrounds, RL-1 and PY79. To introduce chromosomal P_{26} panE1 into the PY79 and RL-1 strain backgrounds without using an antibiotic resistance gene, a strategy was used that did not rely on ilvC4. (The strategy took advantage of the observation that the $\Delta panE1$ mutation causes a pantothenate bradytrophy, manifested by relatively small colonies on TBAB (rich) plates). First, $\Delta panB$::cat and $\Delta panE$::spec were introduced into both strain backgrounds. Next, the resulting strains were transformed simultaneously with DNA from two strains, PA221 (P_{26} panBCD) and PA303 (P_{26} panE1), selecting for Pan⁺ on TBAB plates. Colonies of two distinct sizes grew on the selective plates, with the larger size comprising about 2% of the colonies. The larger colonies were presumed to represented co-transformants that received both P_{26} panBCD and P_{26} panBCD. Consistent

with this prediction, the larger colonies had lost both Cam^r and Spec^r, while the smaller colonies had lost only the *cat* gene, and retained the *spec* gene. Furthermore, a representative derivative of PY79 named PA327, and a representative derivative of RL-1, named PA328, both produced the elevated levels of pantothenate in test tube cultures which was about 1.6 to 1.7 g/l (Table 13).

Table 13. Pantothenate production of PA327, PA328, and controls from 24 hr test tube cultures grown in SVY plus 5 g/l α -KIV and β -alanine.

Strain	Background	P26 panE1 copy number	[pan] g/l	
DA221 1	DI 1	0 -	0.92	
PA221-1	RL-1	•		
PA221-2	RL-1	0	0.95	
PA236-1	RL-1	amplified (~3)	1.60	
PA236-2	RL-1	amplified (~3)	1.73	
PA327-1	PY79	1	1.66	
PA327-2	· PY79	1	1.65	
1 A321-2	1179	1	1.05	
DA 200 1	DI 1	1	1.61	
PA328-1	RL-1	I .		
PA328-2	RL-1	1	1.91	

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Thus, PA327 and PA328 were concluded to contain both P_{26} panBCD and P_{26} panE1, and were used for further constructions as described below. PCR analysis confirmed the presence of the two cassettes.

15 Installation of a stable P26 ilvBNC cassette into two lineages of pantothenate overproducing strains

Having constructed PA327 and PA328, derivatives of PY79 and RL-1 that contain *P26 panBCD* and *P26 panE1*, and that are Leu⁺, the next step was to introduce stable copies of *P26 ilvBNC*. This was accomplished by transforming PA327 and PA328 with plasmid pAN267, selecting for Spec^r. Screening by PCR showed that about 85% of the obtained transformants contain *P26 ilvBNC* integrated at *amyE* by double crossover. One transformant of PA327, named PA340, and one transformant of PA328, named PA342, were chosen for further study.

In test tube cultures grown in SVY medium plus 5 g/l β-alanine but without added α-KIV, both PA340 and PA342 gave the expected increase in pantothenate production over that of PA327 and PA328, to about 1.3 to 2 g/l (Table 14).

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Table 14. Pantothenate and valine production by PA340 and PA342, both containing P_{26} ilvBNC in 24 hr test tube cultures grown in SVY with 5 g/l β -alanine and with or without 5 g/l α -KIV

Strain	Back- ground	OD ₆₀₀ - α-KIV	+ α-KIV	[pan] g/l - α-KIV	+ α-KIV	[val] g/l - α-KIV	+ α-KIV
PA340-1	PY79	11.8	7. 1	2.02	2.10	0.38	0.90
PA340-2	PY79	10.3	7.5	1.97	2.03	0.40	0.91
PA342-1	RL-1	10.2	8.0	1.29	1.89	0.27	0.78
PA342-2	RL-1	9.6	9.2	1.34	2.04	0.21	0.79

The two new strains also gave a slight increase in valine secretion, indicating that the *ilvBNC* genes had been deregulated. However, when the same strains were grown with 5 g/l α -KIV added, a further increase in pantothenate production occurred from PA342, suggesting that α -KIV was still rate limiting in this strain background. Similar results, only with more growth and hence higher pantothenate levels, were seen in shake flask cultures (Table 15).

Table 15. Pantothenate and valine production by PA340 and PA342, both containing P_{26} ilvBNC in 24 hour shake flask cultures grown in SVY with 5 g/l β -alanine and with or without 5 g/l α -KIV.

Strain	Back- ground	OD ₆₀₀ - α-KIV	+α-KIV	[pan] g/l - α-KIV	+ α-KIV	[val] g/l - α-KIV	+ α-KIV
PA327	PY79	21	22	0.6	3.0	0.5	1.3
PA340-1	PY79	20	20	3.5	4.1	1.0	1.9
PA340-2	PY79	22	19	3.0	2.1	0.8	1.4
PA328	RL-1	20	16	1.4	2.7	0.6	1.3
PA342-1	RL-1	17	16	3.3	3.6	0.9	1.6
PA342-2	RL-1	18	18	3.1	4.2	0.8	1.4

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EXAMPLE VIII: Increasing panD Copy Number in Strains Engineered to Overproduce panE1 and the ilvBNC Gene Products Enhances Pantothenate Production

Experiments where β-alanine was fed to cultures of engineered B. subtilis strains 5 consistently showed that β-alanine was a rate limiting intermediate in pantothenate synthesis. The effect of adding additional copies of panD on pantothenate production in PA340 and PA342 was examined. Strains PA340 and PA342 were transformed with chromosomal DNA isolated from PA401 with selection on plates containing 15 µg/ml of tetracycline (Tet¹⁵ plates). Transformants derived from each parent were patched onto Tet⁶⁰ plates to identify those which were likely to contain multiple copies of the expression cassette. Twelve transformants from each transformation which grew on Tet⁶⁰ were streaked for single colonies on this medium and then assayed in SVY medium test tube cultures for pantothenate production. One transformant from each group was found to produce greater than 300 mg/l pantothenate in 24 hours. These two transformants were saved and named PA404 (PA340 strain background) and PA405 (PA342 strain background). Both strains were resistant to spectinomycin, indicating that the P_{26} ilvBNC expression cassette was still present at amy E. PCR analysis of chromosomal DNA isolated from each strain confirmed that the deregulated panE1 gene had also been retained.

Next, PA404 and PA405 were evaluated in shake flask cultures which were grown in SVY medium containing maltose as the carbon source and supplemented with various intermediates. The cultures were grown for 24 and 48 hours and then assayed for pantothenate, β-alanine, and valine production. The results of this experiment are presented in Table 16. Analogous shake flask culture data for the parent strains (PA340 and PA342) are included in the tables for comparison.

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Table 16. Pantothenate production by PA404 and PA405 in shake flask cultures after 24 hours

Strain	Medium Supplements	OD600	Pan g/l	β-Ala g/l	Val g/l
DA 240		20	0.4	-0.1	1.0
PA340	none	20	0.4	<0.1	1.0
PA404	none	22	1.8	<0.1	0.7
PA342	none	19	0.3	0.2	0.7
PA405	none	19	1.4	0.4	0.5
			-••		0.0

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PA340	β-alanine ⁵	18	3.6	3.2	0.6
PA404	β-alanine ⁵	18	2.8	5.1	0.7
PA342*	β-alanine ⁵	17	3.3	3.3	0.5
PA405*	β-alanine β	19	1.3	6.5	0.6

Values are the average of duplicate flasks except where indicated by *.

In the absence of any medium supplementation, PA404 and PA405 made four to five times more pantothenate in 24 hours compared to their isogenic parent strains (Table 16). The supply of β -alanine was clearly limiting in the parent strains PA340 and PA342. Addition of amplified *P26 panD* greatly increased the supply of β -alanine.

EXAMPLE IX: Deregulation of the *B. subtilis ilvD* Gene Enhances Pantothenate Production

To deregulate expression of the *ilvD gene*, standard procedures (described above) were used to integrate the constitutive P_{26} promoter and an artificial ribosome binding site, RBS2, just upstream of the *ilvD* coding region. The *ilvD* gene maps by itself, unlinked to the *ilvBNC* operon. First, a 2.4 kb region of the RL-1 chromosome that contains the *ilvD* coding region and 730 bp of upstream sequence was cloned by PCR into a low copy (about 15 per *E. coli* cell) vector called pOK12, to give plasmid pAN257, shown in Figure 13.

Taking advantage of a natural EcoRI site just upstream of the native ilvD gene promoter, and a natural NcoI site at the ilvD start codon, an artificial sequence containing P_{26} and RBS2 was inserted into pAN257 to give pAN263 (Figure 14). The nucleotide sequence of pAN263 is set forth as SEQ ID NO:83. In parallel with this construction, the cat gene was also inserted into pAN257, between the same upstream EcoRI site and a BgIII site in the middle of the ilvD coding region, to give pAN261, which is deleted for a large portion of the ilvD gene (Figure 15). Using pAN261 and pAN263, the P_{26} ilvD cassette could then be installed in the B. subtilis chromosome in two steps. In the first step, pAN261 is introduced by transformation, selecting for chloramphenicol resistance, and then confirming an IIv phenotype. In the second step, pAN263 is introduced, selecting for IIv $^+$, checking for chloramphenicol sensitivity, and confirming correct local structure by PCR.

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pAN261 was first transformed into strain RL-1 (highly competent) to give strain PA343 (\(\Dalla ilvD::cat\)), and then chromosomal DNA from PA343 was used to transform PA340 and PA342 to Ilv auxotrophy, yielding strains named PA348 and PA349, respectively. Chromosomal DNA is inherently more efficient than monomeric plasmid

in transforming *B. subtilis*. Similarly, pAN263 DNA was transformed into PA343 (moderately competent) to give strain PA345 (P_{26} ilvD), and then PA345 chromosomal DNA was used to transform PA348 and PA349 to Ilv⁺ prototrophy, yielding strains PA374 and PA354, respectively.

As predicted, PA374 and PA354 gave further increases in pantothenate production, to about 2.5 to 2.9 g/l, in test tube cultures grown in SVY plus 5 g/l β-alanine (Table 17).

Table 17. Pantothenate and valine production by PA374 and PA354, containing P_{26} ilvD, and controls, in 24 hr test tube cultures grown in SVY with 5 g/l β -alanine and with or without 5 g/l α -KIV.

			OD ₆₀₀		[pan] g/l		[val] g/l	
Strain	Back- ground	ilvD status	α-KIV -	+	α-KIV	+	α-KIV -	+
PA340	PY79	w.t.	9.2	9.0	2.14	2.23	0.38	0.90
PA348	PY79	ilvD::cat	11.7	10.0	0.19	2.23	0.19	0.91
PA374-1 PA374-2	PY79 PY79	P ₂₆ ilvD P ₂₆ ilvD	9.1 8.2	7.3 7.7	2.93 2.99	2.40 2.36	0.58 0.60	0.87 0.95
PA342	RL-1	w.t.	10.2	8.0	1.29	1.89	0.27	0.78
PA349	RL-1	ilvD::cat	8.1	7.7	0.17	1.87	0.22	0.88
PA354-1 PA354-2	RL-1 RL-1	P ₂₆ ilvD P ₂₆ ilvD	9.6 7.5	9.6 8.2	2.57 2.48	2.03 2.24	0.65 0.64	1.23 0.97

In the absence of added β-alanine, strains PA374 and PA354 produced only about 0.2 g/l pantothenate in test tube cultures, indicating that PanD activity is significantly rate limiting.

To alleviate this limitation, the amplifiable P_{26} panD cassette from strain PA401 was installed. PA401 chromosomal DNA was transformed into PA374 and PA354, selecting for Tet^r at 15 mg/l, to yield strains PA377 and PA365, respectively. After transformants were obtained, the strains were streaked on plates containing 30 and 60 mg/l tetracycline to reamplify the copy number of the P_{26} panD cassette integrated at the bpr locus. In test tube cultures grown in SVY without α-KIV or β-alanine, a substantial improvement in pantothenate titers over those of PA374 and PA354 was obtained (Tables 18 and 19).

Table 18. Pantothenate production by PA365, containing amplified P_{26} panD, and controls, in 24 and 36 hr test tube cultures grown in SVY-glucose without β -alanine or α -KIV.

		OD ₆₀₀		[pan] g/l	[pan] g/l	
Strain	Relevant genotype	24 hrs.	36 hrs	24 hrs.	36 hrs.	
PA342-1-1	w.t. ilvD	11.7	8.8	b.d.	0.27	
PA342-1-2	w.t. ilvD	12.8	8.8	b.d.	0.26	
PA354-1-1	P ₂₆ ilvD	n.d.	11.0	n.d.	0.19	
PA354-1-2	P ₂₆ ilvD	n.d.	8.4	n.d.	0.20	
PA365-1	P26 ilvD, P26 panD	9.8	10.0	1.01	2.07	
PA365-2	P ₂₆ ilvD, P ₂₆ panD	9.9	10.4	0.96	2.09	
		<u> </u>				

n.d. = not determined; b.d. = below detection

Table 19. Pantothenate production by PA377, containing amplified P_{26} panD, and controls, in 27 hr test tube cultures grown in SVY-glucose or SVY-maltose, without α -KIV, and with or without β -alanine.

Strain	Relevant genotype	OD ₆₀₀ - β-ala Glucose	+ β-ala Glucose	- β-ala Maltose	+ β-ala Maltose
PA374-1 PA374-2	P ₂₆ ilvD P ₂₆ ilvD	9.4 9.2	9.8 9.6	7.0 6.6	6.4 6.3
PA377-1	P26 ilvD, P26 panD	10.0	7.6	7.2	6.1
PA377-2	P26 ilvD, P26 panD	10.5	7.8	9.4	5.4
Strain	Relevant genotype	[pan] g/l - β-ala Glucose	+ β-ala Glucose	- β-ala Maltose	+ β-ala Maltose
PA374-1 PA374-2	P ₂₆ ilvD P ₂₆ ilvD	0.04 0.10	2.76 2.65	0.14 0.15	1.31 1.33
PA377-1 PA377-2	P ₂₆ ilvD, P ₂₆ panD P ₂₆ ilvD, P ₂₆ panD	1.25 1.25	2.76 2.35	1.26 1.31	1.10 1.26

In SVY with glucose, an increase in pantothenate production can still be achieved by feeding 5 g/l β-alanine suggesting that increasing panD expression further might increase pantothenate production. In SVY with maltose, no further increase in pantothenate was obtained by feeding β-alanine suggesting that β-alanine and/or

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aspartate synthesis is suppressed by glucose. Strains PA377 and PA365 have been evaluated in 10 liter fermentors, where they typically produce above 20 g/l pantothenate in 48 hours without supplemental β -alanine and α -KIV or valine, described in detail below.

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EXAMPLE X: 10 liter Fermentations of Pantothenate-Producing Microbes

Engineering of the P_{26} ilvBNC and P_{26} ilvD cassettes to give strains PA342 and PA354 allowed the production of 22 and 26 g/l of pantothenate, respectively, without the addition of valine or α -KIV to the fermentation medium (Table 20). At 48 hours, both strains had secreted about 0.5 g/l of valine into the medium.

Table 20. 10-liter fermentations of five pantothenate overproducing strains.

Strain	Medium	Feed 40% Glucose plus	OD 600 48 hr	Valine 48 hours g/l	β-ala 48 hr g/l	Pa 36 hr	ntothena g/L 48 hr	te 72 hr
PA 236	SVYG	50 g/l β-ala 25 g/l α-KIV	108	added	, added	16	19	21
PA 342	SVYG	50 g/l β-ala	92	0.5	added	17	22	
PA 354	SVYG	50 g/l β-ala	90	0.5	added	19	26	
PA 365	SVYG	25g/I YE	77	0.85	0.4	18	21	27
PA 377	SVYG	25g/l YE	85	1.5	0.5	18	22	31
PA 377	PFMG	25g/l YE	96	0.8	0.4	19	25	29
PA377	PFMG	-	71	0.7	0.1	16	21	-

15 Pantothenate synthesis in fermentors

With the addition of the P_{26} panD cassette to strains PA354 and PA374 to create strains PA365 and PA377, neither β -alanine nor α -KIV needed to be added to the fermentors. Strain PA365 produced 21 g/l pantothenate in 48 hours and 27 g/l in 72 hours with no precursors added to the medium (Table 20). PA377 was somewhat better, producing 18 g/l of pantothenate in 36 hours, 22 g/l in 48 hours, and 31 g/l in 72 hours). Valine was measured at 0.85 and 1.5 g/l for strains PA365 and PA377, respectively, at

48 hours in SVYG medium. Strain PA377 maintained valine between 1-1.5 g/l throughout most of the fermentation and β -alanine between 0.2 and 0.5 g/l.

Strain PA377 was further evaluated in 10-liter fermentors in yeast extract based PFMG medium. Pantothenate yields in PFMG and SVYG medium were similar. In PFMG, PA377 produced 19 g/l of pantothenate in 36 hours, 25 g/l in 48 hours, and 29 g/l in 72 hours. In SVYG, PA377 produced 18 g/L pantothenate in 36 hours, 22 g/L in 48 hours and 31 g/L in 72 hours (Table 20).

EXAMPLE XI: Converting Strain PA377 to a Tryptophan Prototroph

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PA377 (Trp⁻) was transformed to Trp⁺ using chromosomal DNA from PY79 to give strain PA824. After re-amplification of the $P_{26}panD$ casette, PA824 was compared to PA377 for pantothenate production in test tube cultures grown in SVY glucose with or without 5 g/L β -alanine (Table 21).

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Table 21: Trp^{+} derivatives of PA377: Pantothenate production in 48 hour test tube cultures grown in SVY glucose, $\pm \beta$ -alanine

		OD ₆₀₀		[pan] g/L	
Strain	trpC donor	- β-alanine	+ β-alanine	- β-alanine	+ β-alanine
PA377-1	RL-1	8	8	1.5	3.4
PA377-2	RL-1	8	9 .	1.6	3.6
PA824-1	PY79	12 .	10	0.7	3.7
PA824-2	PY79	11	11	1.9	4.9

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The Trp+ strains grew to slightly higher densities than PA377. In the absence of exogenous β -alanine, all of the strains produced similar levels of pantothenate, while with the addition of β -alanine, the Trp+ derivatives produced somewhat more pantothenate.

25 Fermentor studies with PA824

PA824 was evaluated in CF3000 Chemap 14 liter vessels with 10 liter working volumes. Formulations for two of the media used in the fermentors are given in Tables 22 and 23.

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Table 22: Formulation for PFMG-5 medium

BATCH

	BATCH	
	MATERIAL	g/L (final [])
1	Amberex 1003	10
2	Na Glutamate	5
3	(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	8
4	MAZU DF 37C	2.5
	Added After Sterilization and Coo	l Down
1	KH ₂ PO ₄	10
2	K ₂ HPO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	20

1 Glucose 20 2 $MgCl_2{\cdot}6H_2O$ l $CaCl_2{\cdot}2H_2O$ 3 0.1 Sodium Citrate 1 1 2 $FeSO_4{\cdot}7H_2O$ 0.01 SM-1000X 1.0 ml 3 H_2O qs to 6000 ml

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FEED

	MATERIAL	g/L
1	Glucose	600
2	CaCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.6
	H ₂ O	qs to 3000 ml

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Table 23: Formulation for SVY-4 medium

BATCH

	BAICH	
	MATERIAL	g/L (final [])
1	Veal Infusion	25
2	Yeast Extract	5
3	Na Glutamate	5
4	(NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄	4
5	MAZU DF 37C	2.5
	Added After Sterilization and C	ool Down
1	KH₂PO₄	10
2	K ₂ HPO ₄ ·3H ₂ O	20

K₂HPO₄·3H₂O 20 1 Glucose 20 2 1 $MgCl_2 \cdot 6H_2O$ 3 $CaCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ 0.1 Sodium Citrate 1 1 2 $FeSO_4{\cdot}7H_2O$ 0.01 3 SM-1000X 1.0 ml H₂O qs to 6000 ml

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FEED

	MATERIAL	g/L
1	Glucose	600
2	CaCl ₂ ·2H ₂ O	0.6
	H ₂ O	qs to 3000 ml

All fermentations were glucose limited fed batch processes. Immediately after inoculation, agitation was set at 200 rpm. The initial batched 2% glucose was consumed during exponential growth. Afterwards, glucose concentrations were maintained

between 0.2 and 1.0 g/L by continuous feeding of a 60% glucose solution. The variable rate feed pump was computer controlled and linked to the dissolved oxygen concentration [pO₂] in the tank by an algorithm. When the [pO₂] fell to 30%, computer control began to automatically adjust the agitation rate to maintain a dissolved oxygen concentration between 25 and 30% [pO₂]. Computer control and data recording were by Braun MFCS software.

In one study, PA284 was grown in fermentors at two temperatures (40°C and 43°C) in the medium described in Table 22. Results of two experiments demonstrated that the highest pantothenate titers at early time points were produced at 43°C. The cell mass approached 150 optical density units at OD₆₀₀ and 56 hours at 43°C, and the pantothenate titers were 21 g/L, 28 g/L and 36 g/L at 36, 48 and 72 hours respectively. In the parallel fermentation at 40°C, the cell mass approached 120 optical density units at OD₆₀₀ and 56 hours, and the pantothenate titers were 18 g/L, 26 g/L and 37 g/L at 36, 48 and 72 hours, respectively.

In another study, PA824 was grown in a fermentor at 43°C in the medium described in Table 23. The cell mass exceeded 160 optical density units at OD₆₀₀ and 36 hours, and the pantothenate titers were 23 g/L, 34 g/L, 37 g/L and 40 g/L at 24, 36, 48 and 60 hours, respectively. In other fermentations, increasing the amount of trace elements in the glucose feed (e.g., increasing the concentration of SM from 1X to 2X) resulted in even higher titers of pantothenate.

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EXAMPLE XII: Identification and characterization of the B. subtilis coaA gene product

The annotated version of the *B. subtilis* genome sequence available on the "Subtilist" web site contains no gene labeled as *coaA*. However a homology search using the protein sequence of *E. coli* pantothenate kinase as a query sequence gave a good match with *B. subtilis* gene *yqjS*, which is annotated as "unknown; similar to pantothenate kinase." This gene appears to be the penultimate gene in an operon containing five open reading frames (Figure 18). Two of the open reading frames encode proteins which are similar to D-serine dehydratase and to "ketoacyl reductase"; the other two have no known homologies. For the open reading frame corresponding to *coaA*, there are three possible start codons; each having a possible ribosome-binding site (RBS) associated with it. The three potential *coaA* ORFs were named *coaA1*, *coaA2*, and *coaA3*, from longest to shortest.

All three potential coaA open reading frames were cloned along with their respective RBSs by PCR followed by ligation into expression plasmid pAN229. pAN229 is a low copy vector in E. coli that provides expression from the SP01 phage P₁₅ promoter and can integrate by single crossover at bpr with tetracycline selection. A representative resulting plasmid, pAN281, is shown in Figure 19.

To determine if the cloned putative *coaA* ORFs actually encode a pantothenate kinase activity, several isolates of all three plasmids were transformed into the *E. coli* strain YH1, that contains the *coaA15(Ts)* allele. Transformants were streaked to plates incubated at 30° and 43°C to test for complementation of the temperature sensitive allele. All isolates of all three *coaA* variants, except for one isolate of pAN282, complemented well at 43°C, indicating that all three plasmid constructs encode an active pantothenate kinase. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the *B. subtilis yqjS* open reading frame codes for an active pantothenate kinase.

15 EXAMPLE XIII: Deletion of the coaA gene from the B. subtilis genome

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The coaA gene of B. subtilis (yqjS) was deleted from the chromosome of a B. subtilis strain by conventional means. The majority of the coaA coding sequence was deleted from a plasmid clone and replaced by a chloramphenicol resistance gene (cat), while leaving approximately 1 kb of upstream and downstream sequence to allow homologous recombination within the chromosome, to give plasmid pAN296 (see Figure 17). pAN296 was then used to transform a B. subtilis strain (PY79), selecting for chloramphenicol resistance. The majority of transformants result from a double crossover event that effectively substitutes the cat gene for the coaA gene. The transformed strain containing the coaA deletion – cat insertion grew normally due the presence of a second B. subtilis pantothenate kinase encoding gene described herein.

EXAMPLE XIV: Identification and characterization of a second *B. subtilis* gene encoding pantothenate kinase activity

As described in detail in the instant specification, in order to maximize pantothenate production, it is necessary to restrict the flow of pantothenate toward Coenzyme A (CoA), for example, by reducing the activity of pantothenate kinase, the first enzyme in the pathway from pantothenate to CoA. After finding that deletion of the coaA gene from the chromosome of B. subtilis is not a lethal event (see Example XIII), it was concluded that B. subtilis must contain a second gene that encodes an active pantothenate kinase, since pantothenate kinase is an essential enzyme activity.

A second pantothenate kinase-encoding gene was identified by complementing the E. coli strain YH1 (coaA15(Ts)) with a B. subtilis gene bank and selecting for transformants that were able to grow at 43°C. Found among the transformants were two families of plasmids that had overlapping restriction maps within each family, but not between the families. As expected, the restriction map of one family was identical to that predicted from the B. subtilis genome sequence for the homologue of the E. coli coaA gene (which we named coaA also, see above) and surrounding sequences. The other family had a restriction map that was completely non-overlapping with the first.

DNA sequencing of the ends of the cloned inserts from the second family showed that the clones came from a region of the *B. subtilis* chromosome that includes the 3' end of the *fisH* gene, the 5' end of the *sul* gene, and all of the *yacB*, *yacC*, *yacD*, *cysK*, *pabB*, *pabA* and *pabC* genes. None of the open reading frames of these cloned inserts showed homology to any known pantothenate kinase sequences, either prokaryotic or eukaryotic.

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Several deletions were created through the B. subtilis genomic sequences in the cloned inserts. Each deletion was tested for complementation of the E. coli temperature sensitive pantothenate kinase. In particular, a deletion that removed all DNA between a Stu I site in the cloning vector and a Swa I site in the yacC gene, leaves yacB as the only intact open reading frame in the cloned insert (see Figure 21). This deleted plasmid still complemented the E. coli pantothenate kinase mutant. However, another deletion that removed DNA from the Swa I site in yacC through a Bst1107I site in the (already truncated) ftsH gene, could not complement the E. coli pantothenate kinase mutant. From these results, it was concluded that the yacB open reading frame was responsible for the complementation activity. To confirm that yacB is a pantothenate kinase gene, the yacB ORF plus 112 base pairs of downstream flanking sequence was amplified by PCR in two independent reactions and cloned downstream of a constitutive promote to give plasmids pAN341 and pAN342 (Figure 22). Both pAN341 and pAN342 complemented the defect in YH1 at 44°C, while a control plasmid, which has the same backbone, but expresses panBCD instead of yacB did not. This confirmed that the yacB open reading frame was responsible for the complementation of YH1.

As such, a novel gene that encodes pantothenate kinase activity in *B. subtilis* has been discovered that is not related by homology to any previously known pantothenate kinase gene. This gene has been renamed *coaX*, as a second, alternative gene that encodes an enzyme that catalyzes the first step in the pathway from pantothenate to CoaA. Deletion of *coaX* by methods described above for deleting *coaA*, in conjunction

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with reduction in the activity of the CoaA enzyme, provides a means to reduce pantothenate kinase activity to the desired level.

Several homologues of the *B. subtilis coaX* gene were identified by homology searching of various publically available databases using the published *yacB* (*coaX*) open reading frame sequence and predicted amino acid sequence (as set forth in SEQ ID NOs:84 and 85 respectively). In two cases (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Streptomyces coelicolor*) the homologous *coaX* genes are adjacent to, or almost adjacent to, pantothenate biosynthetic genes, consistent with these homologs having a role in pantothenate metabolism. The CoaX proteins show no homology to the CoaA family of pantothenate kinases, nor to the eukaryotic family of pantothenate kinases exemplified by PanK of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

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Alignment of the amino acid sequences of several bacterial CoaX homologs with the amino acid sequence predicted from translating the *B. subtilis yacB* ORF described in the published *B. subtilis* genome sequence revealed that the CoaX proteins from other bacteria contained additional amino acid residues at their carboxy-terminal ends. Moreover, these extensions beyond the end of the predicted amino acid for the *B. subtilis* gene product contained two relatively well conserved segments of sequence.

Translation of nucleotide sequences just downstream from the stop codon of the *B. subtilis yacB* ORF in a different reading frame revealed the existence of amino acid sequences very similar to the carboxy-terminal extensions of the other bacterial CoaX proteins. It is thus believed that an error exists in the published DNA sequence of the *B. subtilis yacB* ORF sequence that causes a frame shift leading to an artifactual downstream amino acid sequence and premature termination.

The PCR-generated sequences of *B. subtilis CoaX* in pAN341 and pAN342 (described above) contain enough downstream flanking sequence to encode the putative carboxy-terminal extension described above, which is consistent with the result that the clones were functional in the complementation assay. However when the 3' PCR primer was positioned to include only the shorter *yacB* ORF predicted from the published sequence, but not to include the putative carboxy-terminal extension, then the resulting plasmids, pAN329 and pAN330 (similar in structure to pAN341 and pAN342; *see* Figure 22), did not complement the defect in YH1. This result supports the notion that the published *yacB* coding sequence contains a frame-shift error, and that the carboxy-terminal end of CoaX is necessary for pantothenate kinase activity. The predicted correct nucleotide sequence for *B. subtilis coaX* is set forth as SEQ ID NO:19 and the translated amino acid sequence is set forth as SEQ ID NO:9. A multiple

sequence alignment of the CoaX amino acid sequences of B. subtilis and 11 homologues thereof is set forth in Figure 23.

EXAMPLE XV: Generation of mutant coaA genes encoding pantothenate kinase having reduced or temperature sensitive activities

This Example describes strategies for modifying the coaA gene (i.e., by introducing point mutations) to reduce the activity of pantothenate kinase after coaX is deleted from the genome.

Cloning and sequencing of the temperature sensitive allele of the E. coli coaA gene. 10

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Two E. coli strains, each exhibiting a different mutant CoaA phenotype, were obtained from the E. coli Genetic Stock Center. Strain DV62 contains the coaA15(Ts) allele, and DV79 contains the coaA16(Fr) mutation. DV62 is temperature sensitive at 43°C and produces a pantothenate kinase that is temperature sensitive. DV79 was obtained by reversion of DV62 to temperature resistance, and it produces a temperature stable, feedback resistant pantothenate kinase activity. Since the DNA sequences of these alleles are not available in the literature, the coal genes from the two mutant strains were cloned by PCR and sequenced, in addition to a coaA gene from a strain that is wild type at the coaA locus, MM294. The PCR primer at the 5' end was designed to include the start codon plus four bases upstream, and added an arbitrarily chosen ribosome binding site (RBS). The three PCR generated fragments were each ligated between the XbaI and BamHI sites of pAN229 to give pAN284 (from coaA15(Ts)), pAN285 (from wild type coaA), and pAN286 (from coaA16(Fr)). pAN229 is a low copy E. coli vector that provides expression from the P_{15} promoter and that can integrate 25 by single crossover at bpr in B. subtilis with tetracycline selection.

All three plasmids were transformed into the E. coli strain YH1 for complementation testing. All three plasmids complemented the temperature sensitive coal mutation in E. coli YH1. It is presumed that the coal 15(Ts) gene in pAN284 is probably significantly overexpressed relative to the normal chromosomal gene, such that 30 the overproduction compensates for the temperature sensitive defect. Complementation of a defect by overproduction is a well-documented phenomenon in E. coli.

The coaA coding regions from pAN284, 285, and 286 were subcloned into pGEM7 to give pAN306, 307, and 308, respectively, for DNA sequencing. As expected, the DNA sequence of the insert in pAN307 (from wild type coaA) matched the coaA sequence from the $E.\ coli$ genome database (GenBankTM). The sequence from pAN306 contains a single base change that causes a S176L substitution (i.e., a Ser >

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Leu substitution in the amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO:2). Interestingly, the DNA sequence of the pAN308 insert, derived from the feedback resistant strain, was identical to that derived from its temperature sensitive parent (represented in pAN306). This is in accord with the genetic data that indicates that the reversion of the temperature sensitive mutation occurred at a second site unlinked to the *coaA* gene.

The S176L mutation, predicted to cause the temperature sensitive defect in E. coli pantothenate kinase, changed a serine residue that is conserved in all known or suspected bacterial coaA encoded pantothenate kinases, including that of B. subtilis (see SEQ ID NO:3 and refer to alignment). Based on this, a serine to leucine change at the homologous residue in the B. subtilis pantothenate kinase is predicted to result in either a temperature sensitive enzyme or one which is less active. Accordingly, to produce a mutant B. subtilis coaA gene, this specific change was introduced into the B. subtilis coaA gene. The mutant version is installed in the chromosome of a B. subtilis strain deleted for coaX, for example, and the recombinant microorganism is checked for temperature sensitivity (e.g., reduced growth at 43°C). The mutation is then installed into a pantothenate overproducing strain, preferably a strain deleted for the above mentioned coaX gene by standard methods to give strains favorable for pantothenate production in B. subtilis, i.e., a strain that has reduced pantothenate kinase activity under typical fermentation conditions.

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Additional coaA point mutations resulting in reduced pantothenate kinase activity

Of course it is expected that many other point mutations or combinations of more than one point mutation in *B. subtilis coaA* will also lead to reduced activity. Appropriate mutations can be generated by mutagenic polymerase chain reaction and *in vitro* recombination, and identified by screening for alleles that poorly complement the *E. coli coaA15(Ts)* mutant. An example of such a mutation of this type is a tyrosine to histidine substitution at amino acid 181 of B. *subtilis coaA*, generated by mutagenic polymerase chain reaction (see SEQ ID NO:3 and first line of the alignment of Figure 24).

Isolate pAN282A was derived from the middle-sized B. subtilis coaA open reading frame described in Example XII. pAN282A complemented the E. coli coaA15(Ts) mutant very poorly, but nonetheless at a level that was detectable above background. As was done for the E. coli coaA clones, the open reading frame from pAN282A was subcloned into pGEM7 to give pAN303. The DNA sequence of the insert in pAN303 showed a single base change that led to a tyrosine to histidine amino

acid change at the tyrosine corresponding to Y181 of SEQ ID NO:3. This tyrosine residue is conserved in all bacterial coaA genes/homologues present in GenBank (Figure 24). This tyrosine residue and the serine that is altered in the E. coli temperature sensitive pantothenate kinase described above are separated by only three amino acid residues in a region which is highly conserved in bacterial pantothenate kinases whereas the DNA sequence of a second isolate of the middle-sized open reading frame, from pAN282B, was identical to the wild type sequence from the B. subtilis genome sequencing project. The single base change found in pAN303 probably occurred during PCR amplification of the coaA gene. If this variant of coaA2 has sufficient residual biological activity in B. subtilis, it may be useful in the future for providing reduced pantothenate kinase activity.

A preferred plasmid that can serve as a basis for mutagenizing the *coaA* open reading frame is pAN294 (see *e.g.*, Figure 25 and Example XII). Briefly, mutagenic PCR is performed using pAN294 as a template and variants of *coaA* having reduced pantothenate kinase activity are screened as described above. Alternatively, mutations such as the one isolated in pAN282A can be installed into pAN294. The desired mutation is then introduced into the chromosome of a *B. subtilis* strain by transformation with the appropriate pAN294 derivative and selected for chloramphenical resistance at 5 mg/L. Among the resulting transformants will be isolates that contain the desired mutation.

In a similar fashion, mutations that reduce the activity of the CoaX enzyme can be generated and identified, and such mutations used for optimizing pantothenate production by reducing CoA production as described above.

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25 EXAMPLE XVI: Deleting the second pantothenate kinase gene, coaX gene from B. subtilis

With the knowledge gained above concerning the existence and nature of coaX, one can create a deletion of the coaX open reading frame from the B. subtilis chromosome that will remove the encoded activity, and that will not adversely affect the expression of the genes downstream from coaX. In such a deleted strain, the coaA gene will be the only gene that encodes pantothenate kinase.

To delete the coaX gene from B. subtilis, plasmid pAN336 (SEQ ID NO:92), which contains upstream and downstream homology for double crossover, was constructed with a kanamycin resistance gene replacing most of the coaX ORF (Figure 26). Strain PY79 was transformed to kanamycin resistance by pAN336, and an isolate 5 confirmed to have resulted from a double crossover by PCR was named PA876. As predicted, deletion of coaX by itself is not lethal for B. subtilis. Furthermore, chromosomal DNA from PA876 would not transform competent PA861 (PY79 ⊿coaA ::cat) to kanamycin resistance. These results indicate that it is the combination of AcoaA::cat and AcoaX:: kan that is lethal for B. subtilis, confirming that B. subtilis 10 contains two unlinked genes that encode pantothenate kanase, coaA and coaX, and that either gene alone is capable of supplying sufficient pantothenate kinase for a normal rate of growth.

EXAMPLE XVII: Construction of a plasmid designed to allow directed mutagenesis of the B. subtilis coaA gene

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In order to easily introduce mutated coaA genes into the B. subtilis chromosome, it was necessary to install an antibiotic resistance gene adjacent to the coal gene. This was accomplished by joining together in the vector pGEM5 three DNA fragments: (1) a 3.4 kb DNA sequence containing 2.5 kb of genomic sequence upstream from coaA and the coaA open reading frame(s); (2) a 1.1 kb DNA sequence containing a chloramphenicol resistance gene (cat); and (3) a 1.4 kb DNA sequence comprising a region downstream from the operon that contains coaA. The resulting plasmid, named pAN294, effectively replaces the open reading frame yqjT (the open reading frame just downstream from coaA) with the cat gene, with enough homology flanking both sides of 25 the cat gene to allow double recombination into the B. subtilis chromosome (Figure 25). pAN294 was transformed into B. subtilis strain PY79, selecting for chloramphenicol resistance at 5 mg/l to give strains PA836 and PA837, which are presumably identical. PA836 and 837 were checked by diagnostic PCR to show that the cat gene had integrated by double crossover, as opposed to single crossover. PA836 and PA837 grow 30 normally, leading to the conclusion that the open reading frame yqiT is not essential (i.e., the yqiT open reading frame could be deleted from strains PA836 and PA837 with no significant effect on growth or pantothenate production). Thus, variant alleles (i.e., mutations) of the coal gane can be introduced into pAN294 and the resulting plasmids can be used to introduce the variant alleles into the chromosome of, for example, a B. subtilis strain.

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EXAMPLE XVIII: Generation of mutant *coaX* genes encoding pantothenate kinase having reduced or temperature sensitive activities

Mutant coaX genes are generated by introducing point mutations into the gene and testing the resulting mutants for the ability to complement the E. coli YH1 strain as described in Example XII. Preferred mutations in the coaX gene sequences are those that encode a substitution of a residue conserved among CoaX sequences from a variety of bacterial sources (e.g., a conserved residue set forth in Figure 23). Alternatively, random mutations in the coaX gene sequence are generated by mutagenic PCR and in vitro recombination and identified by screening for alleles that poorly complement the E. coli coaA15(Ts) mutant.

Mutants so generated (i.e., mutants having reduced coaX activity) can be further engineered such that the endogenous coaA gene is deleted (as described in Example XIII). CoaX reduced-activity mutants can also be further engineered to contain reduced-activity CoaA gene products as described in Example XV.

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EXAMPLE XIX: Enhanced Production of Panto-Compounds Using Bacteria Having Deletions in One or More Pantothenate Biosynthetic Enzymes

If the desired panto-compound is not pantothenate, then an appropriate deletion of one or more of the pantothenate biosynthetic genes from a pantothenate overproducing strain will provide a strain that produces said desired panto-compound. In this example, the desired panto-compound is pantoate. Starting with, for example, strain PA236, PA313 or PA824 either one or both of the *panC* and *panD* genes is deleted. In another example, ketopantoate is the desired panto-compound. Starting with, for example strain PA244, PA245 or PA824 one, two or all of the *ilvC*, *panE1*, *panC* and *panD* genes are deleted from the starting strain. If β-alanine is the desired panto-compound, then *panB* and *panC* can be deleted, preferably in a fashion that leaves an in frame fusion of a small portion of the 5' end of *panB* with a small portion of the 3' end of *panC*, from the strain PA221, PA235, PA245, or PA313. In all of the abovementioned examples, the panto-compound producing strain will be a pantothenate auxotroph. Accordingly, the growth medium requires sufficient pantothenate for adequate growth. Vectors designed to overexpress *panD* as described above are then transformed into the above strains to further enhance β-alanine production.

The above-mentioned deletions are accomplished by methods well-known to those skilled in the art, for example, by insertion of an antibiotic resistance gene and removing sufficient sequence from the target gene(s) to inactivate said target gene(s).

Alternatively, removal of targeted sequences is accomplished without simultaneous introduction of an antibiotic resistance gene in said target gene and then introduced by congression (co-transformation with any other appropriate selectable DNA sequence) followed by screening for the loss of function of said target gene by replica plating.

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Table 24: Strains (and corresponding phenotypes) for panto-compound production

Name	Pheno type	Drug resist.	panBCD locus	panE locus	ilvD locus	amyE locus	<i>bpr</i> locus	Parent
PA221	Trp-		P26panBCD					
PA222			P ₁₅ panBCD					RL-1
PA235			P26panBCD					
PA236			P ₂₆ panBCD	P ₂₆ panE1				PA221
PA327	Trp-		P26panBCD	P26panE1				PA221
PA328	Trp-		P26panBCD	P26panE1				PA235
PA340	Trp-	Spc	P26panBCD	P26panE1		P26ilvBNC		PA327
PA342	Trp-	Spc	P26panBCD	P26panE1		P26ilvBNC		PA328
PA354	Trp-	Spc	P26panBCD	P26panE1	P26ilvD	P26ilvBNC		PA342
PA365	Тгр-	Spc, Tet	P26panBCD	P26panEI	P26ilvD	P26ilvBNC	P26panD423	PA354
PA374	Trp-	Spc	P26panBCD	P26panE1	P26ilvD	P26ilvBNC		PA340
PA377	Trp-	Spc, Tet	P26panBCD	P26panE1	P26ilvD	P26ilvBNC	P26panD423	PA374
PA401	Trp-		P26panBCD				P26panD423	PA221
PA402	Trp-		P26panBCD				P26panD428	PA221
PA403	Trp-		P26panBCD				P26panD429	PA221
PA404	Trp-	Spc, Tet	P26panBCD	P26panE1		P26ilvBNC	P26panD423	PA340
PA405	Trp-	Spc, Tet	P26panBCD	P26panE1		P26ilvBNC	P26panD423	PA342
PA651	Trp-	Spc	P26panBC*D	P26panE1	P26ilvD	P26ilvBNC		PA374
PA284		Spc, Tet	P26'panBCD	P26panE1	P26ilvD	P26ilvBNC	P26panD423	PA377

Equivalents Those skilled in the art will recognize, or be able to ascertain using no more than routine experimentation, many equivalents to the specific embodiments of the invention described herein. Such equivalents are intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

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What is claimed:

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A method of producing a panto-compound comprising culturing a microorganism which overexpresses at least one *Bacillus* pantothenate biosynthetic
 enzyme under conditions such that the panto-compound is produced.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the microorganism overexpresses at least one *Bacillus subtilis* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme.
- 3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme is selected from the group consisting of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, pantothenate synthetase, aspartate-α-decarboxylase and ketopantoate reductase.
- 4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the microorganism overexpresses at least two pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes.
 - 5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the microorganism overexpresses at least three pantothenate biosynthetic enzymes.
- 20 6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the panto-compound is selected from the group consisting of pantothenate, pantoate, ketopantoate and β-alanine.
- 7. A method of producing a panto-compound comprising culturing a ketopantoate reductase-overexpressing (KPAR-O) microorganism under conditions such that the panto-compound is produced.
 - 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the panto-compound is pantothenate or pantoate.

9. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein the ketopantoate reductase is bacterial-derived.

10. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein the ketopantoate reductase is derived from *Bacillus*.

- 11. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein the ketopantoate reductase is derived from *Bacillus subtilis*.
- 12. The method of any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein the KPAR-O microorganism further overexpresses at least one pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme in addition to overexpressing ketopantoate reductase.
- 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the KPAR-O microorganism further overexpresses at least one of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, pantothenate
 synthetase and aspartate-α-decarboxylase.
- 14. A method of producing pantothenate in a manner independent of precursor feed comprising culturing an aspartate-α-decarboxylase-overexpressing (AαD-O) microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) pathway under conditions
 such that pantothenate is produced.
- 15. A method of producing at least 2 g/L pantothenate in a manner independent of aspartate or β-alanine feed comprising culturing an aspartate-α-decarboxylase-overexpressing (AαD-O) microorganism under conditions such that
 20 pantothenate is produced.
 - 16. A method of producing at least 2 g/L pantothenate in a manner independent of valine or α -ketoisovalerate feed comprising culturing a microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) biosynthetic pathway under conditions such that pantothenate is produced.
 - 17. A method of producing at least 30 g/L pantothenate in a manner independent of aspartate or β -alanine feed comprising culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced.

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18. A method of producing at least 30 g/L pantothenate in a manner independent of valine or α -ketoisovalerate feed comprising culturing a microorganism having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (ilv) biosynthetic pathway under conditions such that pantothenate is produced.

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- 19. A β-alanine independent high yield production method for producing pantothenate comprising culturing a manipulated microorganism under conditions such that pantothenate is produced at a significantly high yield.
- 5 20. The method of any one of claims 14 to 19, wherein the microorganism overexpresses acetohydroxyacid synthetase or is transformed with a vector comprising an *ilvBN* nucleic acid sequence or an *alsS* sequence.
- 21. The method of any one of claims 14 to 19, wherein the microorganism overexpresses acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase or is transformed with a vector comprising an *ilvC* nucleic acid sequence.
- 22. The method of any one of claims 14 to 19, wherein the microorganism overexpresses dihydroxyacid dehydratase or is transformed with a vector comprising an *ilvD* nucleic acid sequence.
 - 23. The method of any one of claims 19 to 22, wherein the microorganism overexpresses aspartate- α -decarboxylase or is transformed with a vector comprising a panD nucleic acid sequence.

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- 24. The method of any one of claims 14 to 23, wherein the microorganism further has a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway.
- 25. The method of any one of claims 14 to 24, wherein the microorganism further has at least one mutant gene selected from the group consisting of a mutant avtA gene, a mutant ilvE gene, a mutant ansB gene and a mutant alsD gene.
- The method of claim 24, wherein the microorganism overexpresses any of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate
 synthetase and aspartate-α-decarboxylase.
 - 27. The method of claim 24 or 26, wherein the microorganism is transformed with a vector comprising a *panBCD* nucleic acid sequence or a vector comprising a *panE1* nucleic acid sequence.

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- 28. The method of any one of claims 14 to 16 and 19 to 27, wherein pantothenate is produced at a level selected from the group consisting of a level greater than 10g/L, a level greater than 20g/L and a level greater than 40g/L.
- 5 29. The method of claim 20, wherein the microorganism overexpresses acetohydroxyacid synthetase derived from *Bacillus* or is transformed with a vector comprising an *ilvBN* nucleic acid sequence or an *alsS* nucleic acid sequence derived from *Bacillus*.
- 10 30. The method of claim 21, wherein the microorganism overexpresses acetohydroxyacid isomeroreductase derived from *Bacillus* or is transformed with a vector comprising an *ilvC* nucleic acid sequence derived from *Bacillus*.
- 31. The method of claim 22, wherein the microorganism overexpresses dihydroxyacid dehydratase derived from *Bacillus* or is transformed with a vector comprising av *ilvD* nucleic acid sequence derived from *Bacillus*.
- 32. The method of claim 23, wherein the microorganism overexpresses aspartate-α-decarboxylase derived from *Bacillus* or is transformed with a vector comprising a *panD* nucleic acid sequence derived from *Bacillus*.
 - 33. The method of claim 24 or 26, wherein the microorganism overexpresses any of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase and aspartate- α -decarboxylase derived from *Bacillus*.

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- 34. The method of claim 27, wherein the vector comprises a *panBCD* nucleic acid sequence or a *panE1* nucleic acid sequence derived from *Bacillus*.
- 35. A method of producing a panto-compound comprising contacting a composition comprising at least one pantothenate biosynthesis pathway precursor or isoleucine-valine biosynthesis pathway precursor with at least one isolated *Bacillus* enzyme selected from the group consisting of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase, pantothenate synthetase and aspartate-α-decarboxylase, under conditions such that the panto-compound is produced.

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- 36. A method of producing β -alanine comprising culturing an aspartate- α -decarboxylase-overexpressing (A α D-O) microorganism under conditions such that β -alanine is produced.
- 5 37. The method of claim 36, wherein the AαD-O microorganism has a mutation in a nucleic acid sequence encoding a pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme selected from the group consisting of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, ketopantoate reductase and pantothenate synthetase.
- 10 38. A method of producing β-alanine comprising contacting a composition comprising aspartate with an isolated *Bacillus* aspartate-α-decarboxylase enzyme under conditions such that β-alanine is produced.
- 39. A method for enhancing production of a panto-compound comprising culturing a mutant microorganism having a mutant *coaX* gene under conditions such that the panto-compound production is enhanced.
 - 40. The method of claim 39, wherein said recombinant microorganism has a mutant *coaA* gene.

41. A method of producing a panto-compound comprising a pantothenate kinase mutant microorganism under conditions such that the panto-compound is produced at a significantly high yield.

- 25 42. The method of claim 41, wherein said mutant microorganism has a mutant *coaA* gene.
 - 43. The method of claim 41, wherein said mutant microorganism has a mutant *coaX* gene.
 - 44. The method of claim 41, where said mutant microorganism has a mutant coaA and coaX gene.
- 45. The method of any one of claims 39 to 44, wherein said panto-compound is selected from the group consisting of ketopantoate, pantoate or pantothenate.

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- 46. The method of any one of claims 39 to 44, wherein said panto-compound is pantothenate.
- 47. The method of any one of claims 39 to 44, wherein said panto-compound is produced at a level selected from the group consisting of a level greater than 10g/L, a level greater than 20g/L and a level greater than 40g/L.
- 48. The method of any one of claims 39 to 44, wherein said recombinant microorganism further has a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway or further has a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) biosynthetic pathway.
 - 49. The method of claim any one of claims 39 to 44, wherein said recombinant microorganism further overexpresses *panD* and *panE*.
- 15 50. The method of any one of claims 39 to 44, wherein said recombinant microorganism further has at least one mutant gene selected from the group consisting of a mutant avtA gene, a mutant ilvE gene, a mutant ansB gene and a mutant alsD gene.
- 51. A method for enhancing production of a panto-compound comprising culturing a microorganism that has a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway and that also has a mutation that results in reduced pantothenate kinase activity under conditions such that the panto-compound production is enhanced.
- 52. A method for identifying compounds which modulate pantothenate kinase activity comprising contacting a recombinant cell expressing pantothenate kinase encoded by the *coaX* gene with a test compound and determining the ability of the test compound to modulate pantothenate kinase activity in said cell.
- 53. The method of claim 52, wherein said cell further comprises a mutant coal gene encoding a pantothenate kinase having reduced activity.
 - 54. The method of any one of claims 1 to 51, wherein the microorganism is Gram positive.
- The method of any one of claims 1 to 51, wherein the microorganism is Gram negative.

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56. The method of any one of claims 1 to 51, wherein the microorganism is a microorganism belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus*, *Cornyebacterium*, *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococci* and *Streptomyces*.

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- 5 57. The method of any one of claims 1 to 51 and 54 to 56, wherein the microorganism is of the genus *Bacillus*.
 - 58. The method of any one of claims 1 to 51 and 54 to 57, wherein the microorganism is *Bacillus subtilis*.

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- 59. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13, 35, 39 to 51 and 54 to 58, further comprising recovering the panto-compound.
- 60. The method of any one of claims 14 to 34 and 54 to 58, further comprising recovering the pantothenate.
 - 61. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14, 35, 39 to 46, 48 to 51 and 54 to 59, wherein the panto-compound is produced at a level greater than 2 g/L.
- 20 62. A recombinant microorganism which overexpresses at least one *Bacillus* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme.
 - 63. The recombinant microorganism of claim 62, which overexpresses at least one *Bacillus subtilis* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme.

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64. The recombinant microorganism of claim 62 or 63, wherein the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme is selected from the group consisting of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, pantothenate synthetase, aspartate- α -decarboxylase and ketopantoate reductase.

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- 65. The recombinant microorganism of any one of claims 62 to 64, wherein the pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme is ketopantoate reductase.
- 66. A recombinant microorganism which overexpresses aspartate-α-decarboxylase and has a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) biosynthetic pathway.

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- 67. A recombinant microorganism having a mutant *coaX* gene, said mutant *coaX* gene encoding reduced pantothenate kinase activity in said microorganism.
- 68. The recombinant microorganism of claim 67 further having a mutant
 5 coaA gene, said mutant coaA gene encoding reduced pantothenate kinase activity in said microorganism.
- 69. A recombinant microorganism having a mutant *coaX* gene and optionally having a mutant *coaA* gene, said mutant microorganism having reduced pantothenate kinase activity as compared to a microorganism having wild-type *coaA* and *coaX* genes.
 - 70. A recombinant microorganism comprising a vector comprising an isolated *coaX* gene.
- 15 71. A recombinant microorganism that overproduces a panto-compound, the microorganism having a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway and having at least one mutation that results in a decrease in the capacity of the microorganism to synthesize Coenzyme A (CoA).
- The recombinant microorganism of claim 71, having at least one mutation that results in a reduced level of pantothenate kinase activity.

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- 73. The recombinant microorganism of claim 72, having a mutation in a coaA gene, or homologue thereof, that results in a reduced level of CoaA enzyme activity.
 - 74. The recombinant microorganism of claim 72, having a mutation in a *coaX* gene, or homologue thereof, that results in a reduced level of CoaX enzyme activity.

75. The recombinant microorganism of claim 72, having a mutation in a *coaA* gene, or homologue thereof, and having a mutation in a *coaX* gene, or homologue thereof, the mutations resulting in reduced levels of CoaA enzyme activity and reduced CoaX enzyme activity.

76. The recombinant microorganism of any one of claims 66 to 70 which further has a deregulated pantothenate biosynthetic pathway.

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- 77. The recombinant microorganism of any one of claims 62 to 65 and 67 to 75, further having a deregulated isoleucine-valine (*ilv*) biosynthetic pathway.
- 5 78. The recombinant microorganism of any one of claims 62 to 77, which is Gram positive.
- 79. The recombinant microorganism of claim 78 belonging to a genus selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus*, *Cornyebacterium*, *Lactobacillus*, 10 *Lactococci* and *Streptomyces*.
 - 80. The recombinant microorganism of claim 79 belonging to the genus *Bacillus*.
- 15 81. The recombinant microorganism of claim 80 which is *Bacillus subtilis*.
- 82. A recombinant microorganism selected from the group consisting of PA221, PA235, PA236, PA313, PA410, PA402, PA403, PA411, PA412, PA413, PA303, PA327, PA328, PA401, PA340, PA342, PA404, PA405, PA374, PA354,
 20 PA365, PA377, PA651 and PA824.
 - 83. A recombinant vector for use in the production of panto-compounds comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes at least one *Bacillus* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme operably linked to regulatory sequences.
 - 84. The vector of claim 83, comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes at least one *Bacillus subtilis* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme.
- 85. The vector of claim 84, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes at
 least one of ketopantoate hydroxymethyltransferase, pantothenate synthetase, aspartateα-decarboxylase and ketopantoate reductase.
 - 86. A recombinant vector comprising at least one nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:27, SEQ ID NO:29 and SEQ ID NO:59.

- 87. The vector of claim 84, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes ketopantoate reductase.
- 88. A vector comprising a mutant *coaX* gene, said mutant encoding a pantothenate kinase enzyme having reduced activity.
 - 89. A vector comprising an isolated *coaX* gene.
 - 90. A vector comprising an isolated Bacillus coaX gene.

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- 91. A vector comprising an isolated *Bacillus subtilis coaX* gene.
- 92. The vector of any one of claims 86 and 89 to 91, which further comprises regulatory sequences.

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- 93. The vector of any one of claims 83 to 85, 87 and 92, wherein the regulatory sequences comprise a constitutively active promoter.
- 94. The vector of claim 93, wherein the constitutively active promoter comprises P_{veg} (SEQ ID NO:41), P_{15} (SEQ ID NO:39) or P_{26} (SEQ ID NO:40) sequences.
 - 95. The vector of claim 83, wherein the regulatory sequences comprise at least one artificial ribosome binding site (RBS).

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96. The vector of claim 95, wherein the artificial RBS comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:49, SEQ ID NO:50, SEQ ID NO:51, SEQ ID NO:52, SEQ ID NO:53, SEQ ID NO:54, SEQ ID NO:55, SEQ ID NO:56 and SEQ ID NO:57.

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97. A vector selected from the group consisting of pAN004, pAN005, pAN006, pAN236, pAN423, pAN428, pAN429, pAN441, pAN442, pAN443, pAN251, pAN267, pAN256, pAN257, pAN263, pAN240, pAN294, pAN296, pAN336, pAN341 and pAN342.

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98. A recombinant microorganism comprising the vector of claim 86 or 93.

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99. An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes at least one *Bacillus* pantothenate biosynthetic gene.

- 100. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 99 which encodes at least one *Bacillus subtilis* pantothenate biosynthetic gene.
 - 101. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 99 or 100 which encodes ketopantoate reductase.
- 10 102. An isolated *Bacillus* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme polypeptide.
 - 103. An isolated *Bacillus subtilis* pantothenate biosynthetic enzyme polypeptide.
- 15 104. An isolated *Bacillus* ketopantoate reductase polypeptide.
 - 105. An isolated Bacillus subtilis ketopantoate reductase polypeptide.
 - 106. An isolated *Bacillus* aspartate-α-decarboxylase polypeptide.

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- 107. An isolated *Bacillus subtilis* aspartate-α-decarboxylase polypeptide.
- 108. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a mutant coaX gene.
- 25 109. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a *coaX* gene.
 - 110. An isolated pantothenate kinase protein encoded by a coaX gene.



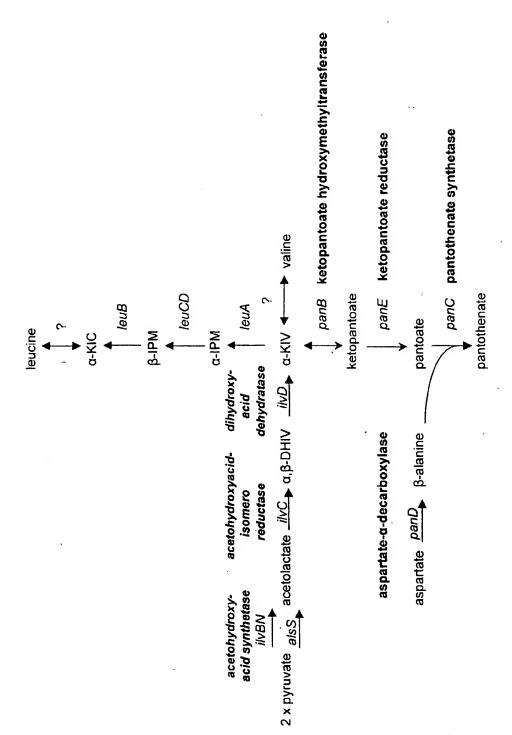


Figure 2. Plasmid pAN240, containing sequences ligated upstream of the P₂₆panBCD cassette, equivalent to the integrated version in strain PA221.

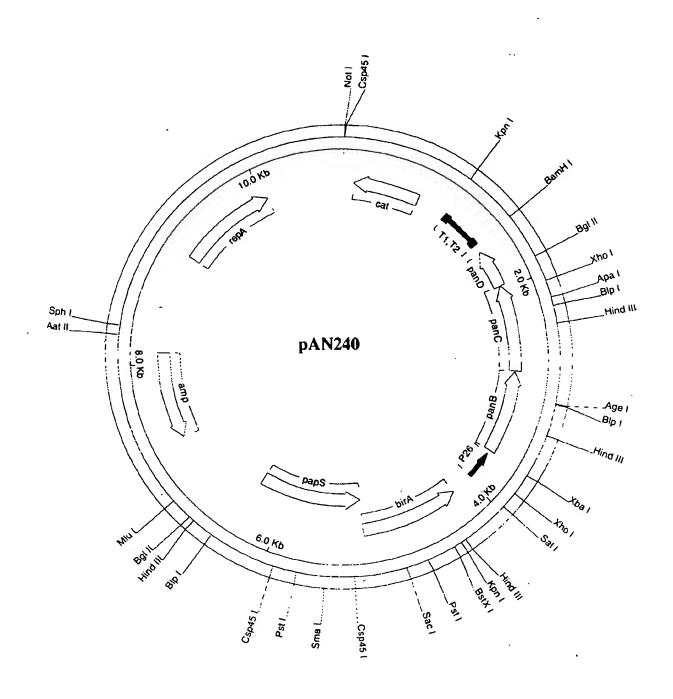


Figure 3A Plasmid pAN004, containing the panBCD operon expressed from P26 and RBS1.

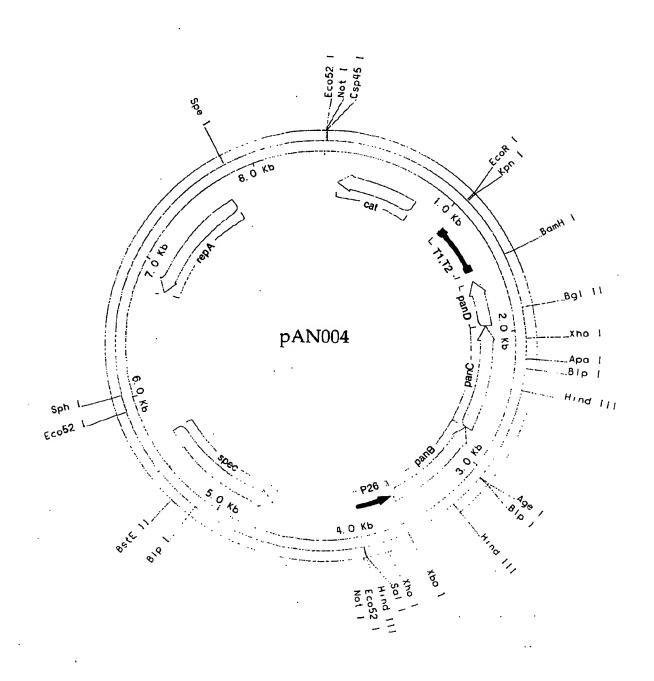


Figure 35 Plasmid pAN006, containing the panBCD operon expressed from P26 and RBS2.

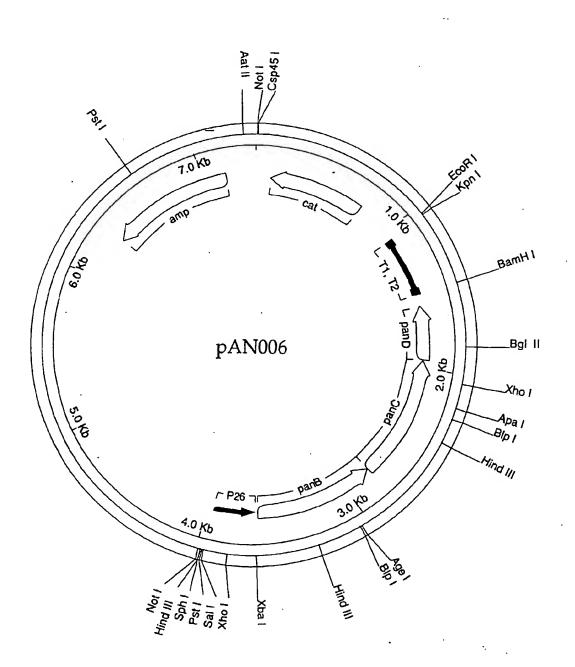


Figure 4 Plasmid pAN236, containing an integratable and amplifiable P26-RBS2-panE1 expression cassette.

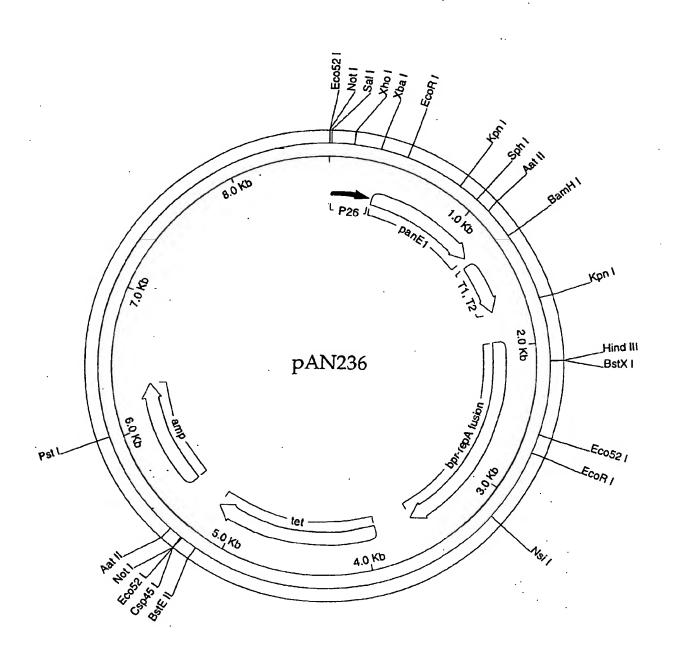


Figure 5 Construction of pAN423

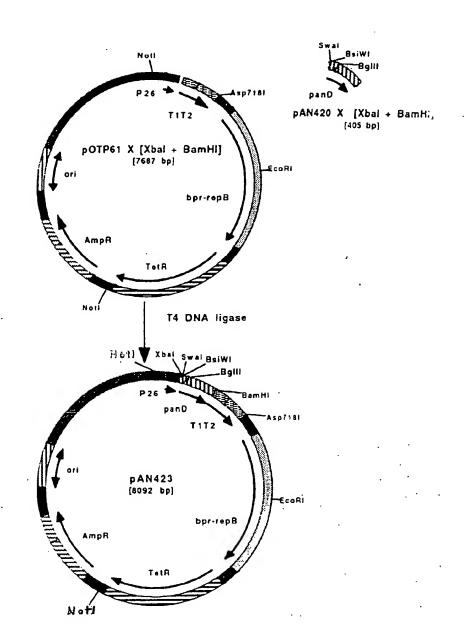


Figure 6 Construction of pAN426 and pAN427.

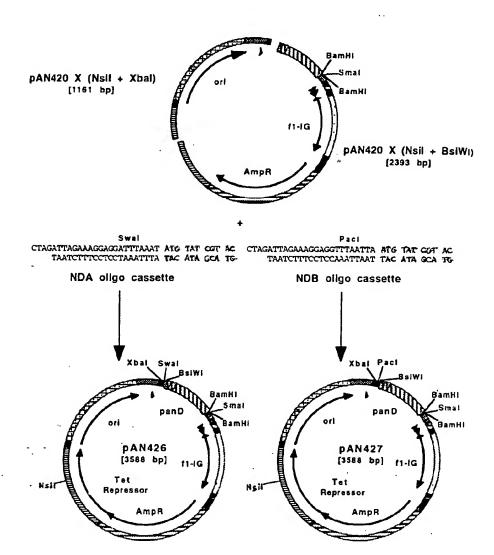


Figure 7 Construction of pAN428 and pAN429.

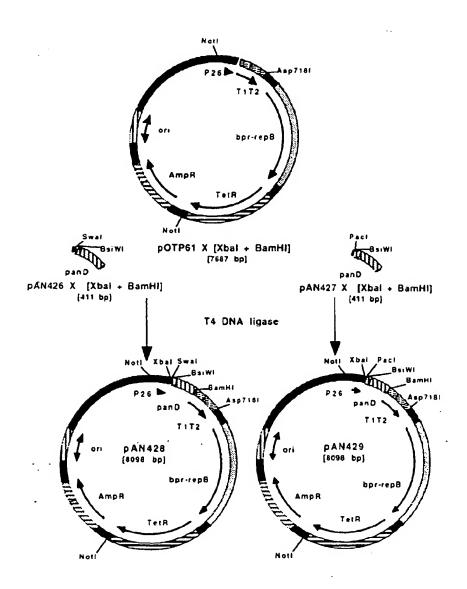


Figure 8. Construction of pAN431.

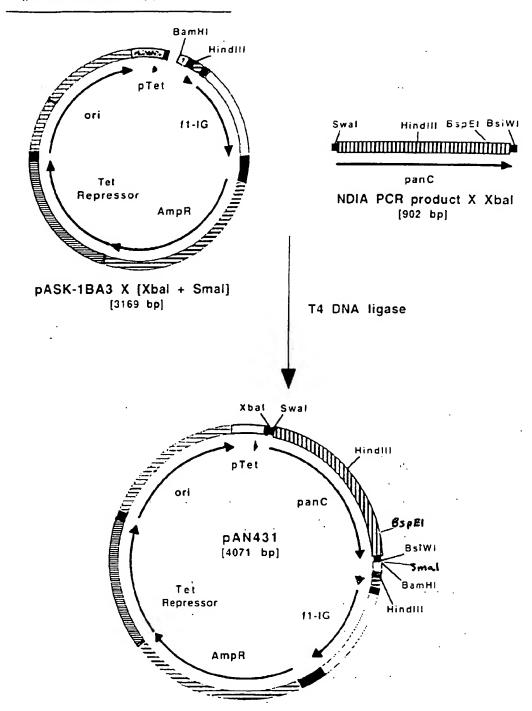


Figure 9. Construction of p.4.N441.

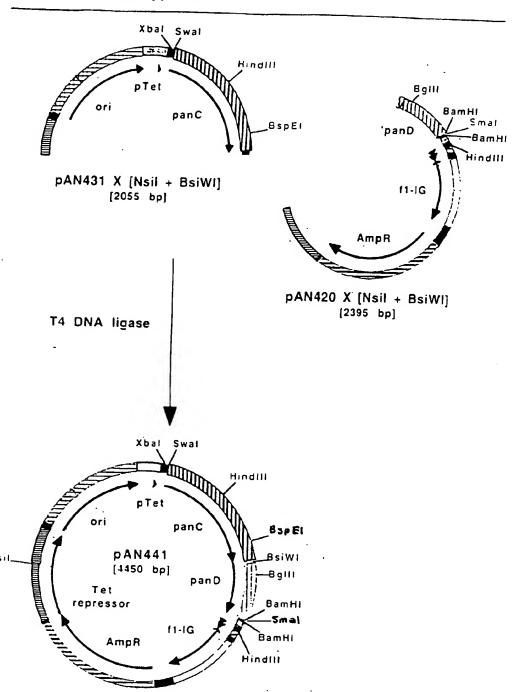


Figure 10. Construction of p.4.N440.

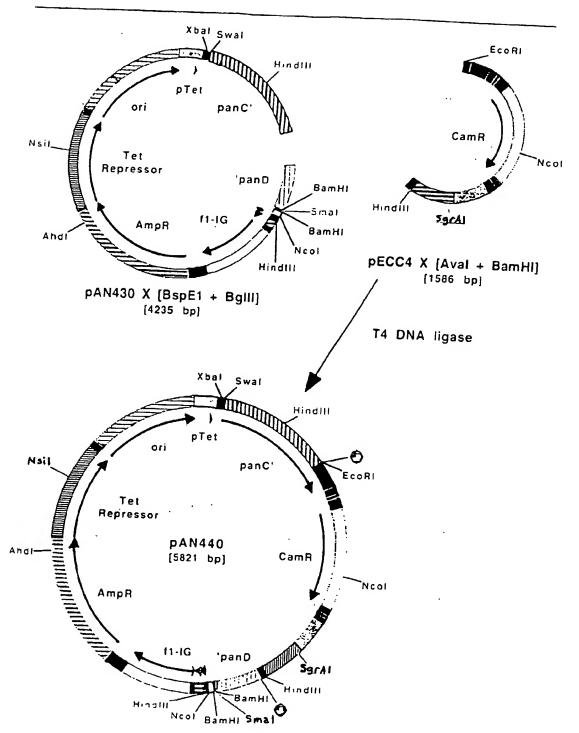


Figure || Structure of pAN251, a plasmid designed to integrate a single copy of P₂₆ panE1 at the panE1 locus by double crossover.

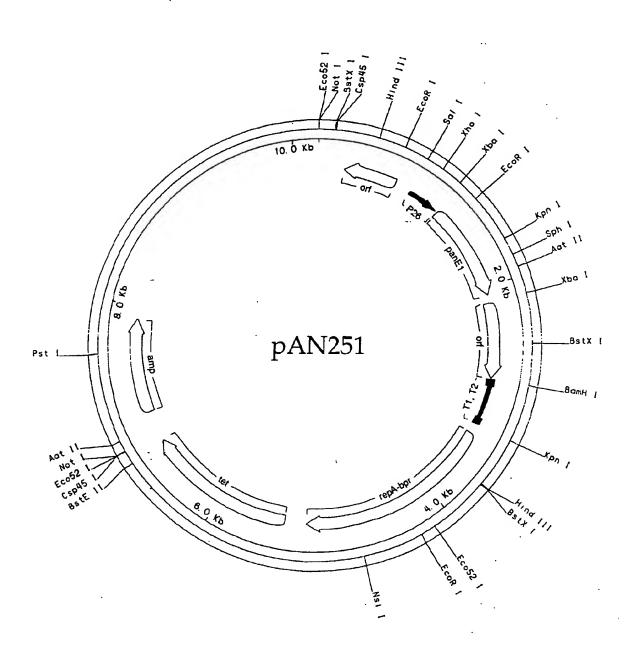


Figure 12 Structure of pAN267, a plasmid designed to stably integrate a P₂₆ ilvBNC cassette at the amyE locus.

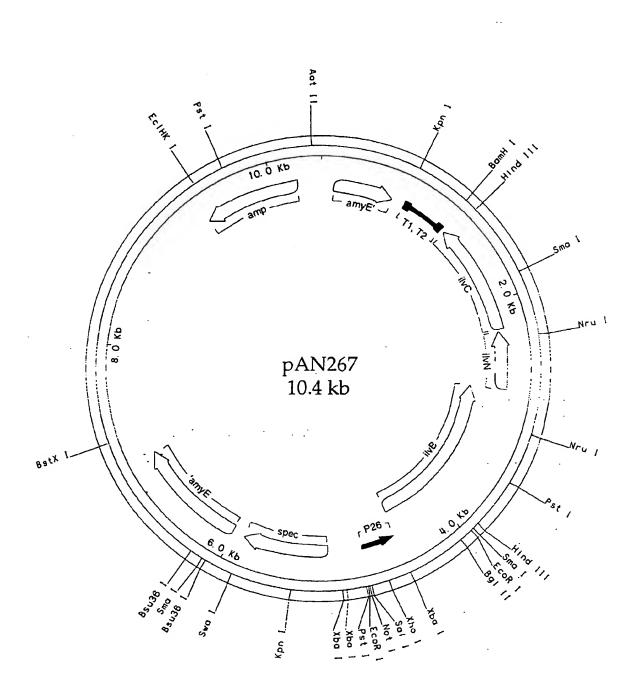


Figure 13 Structure of pAN257, a clone of B. subtilis ilvD in a low copy vector.

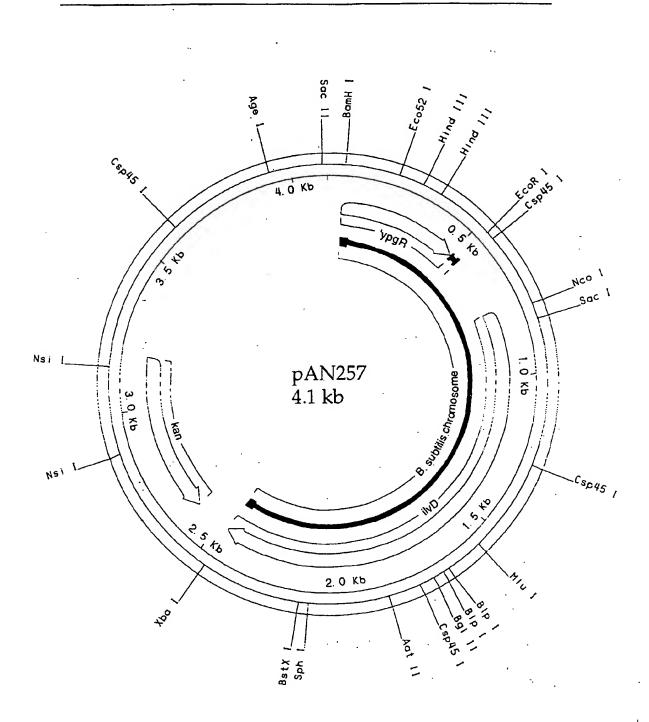


Figure 14 Structure of pAN263, designed to stably integrate a single copy of P₂₆ ilvD at the ilvD locus.

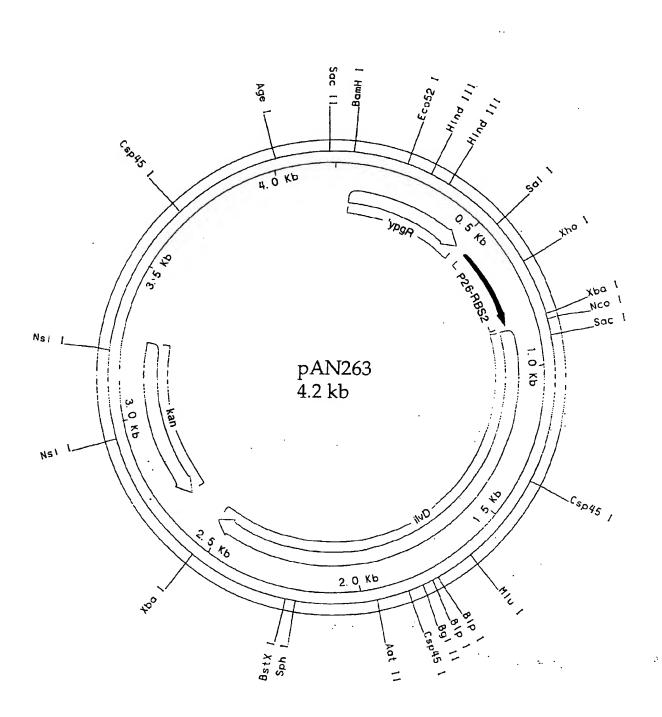
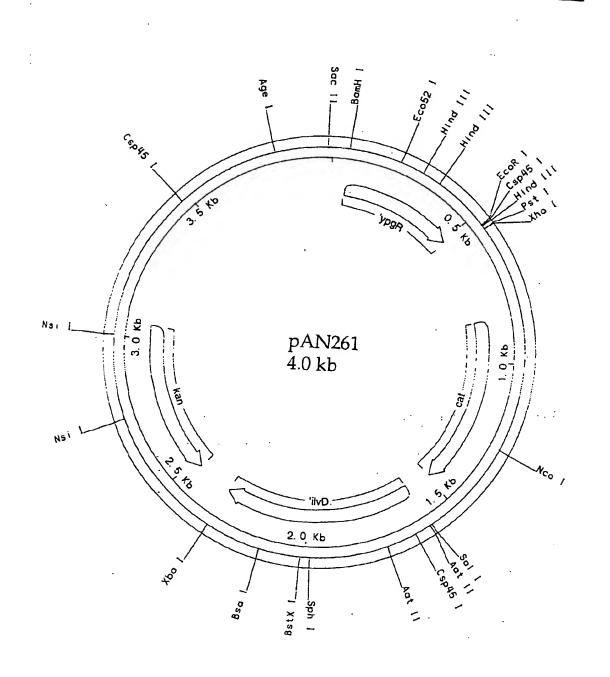


Figure 15 Structure of pAN261, designed to disrupt the B. subtilis ilvD gene with the cat gene.



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Figure 16

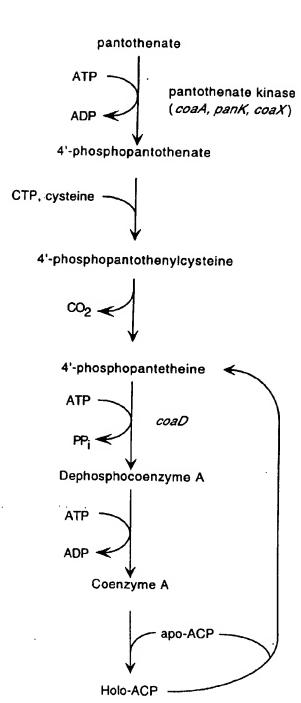


Figure 17 Structure of pAN296, designed to delete most of the B. subtilis coaA gene and substitute a chloramphenical resistance gene.

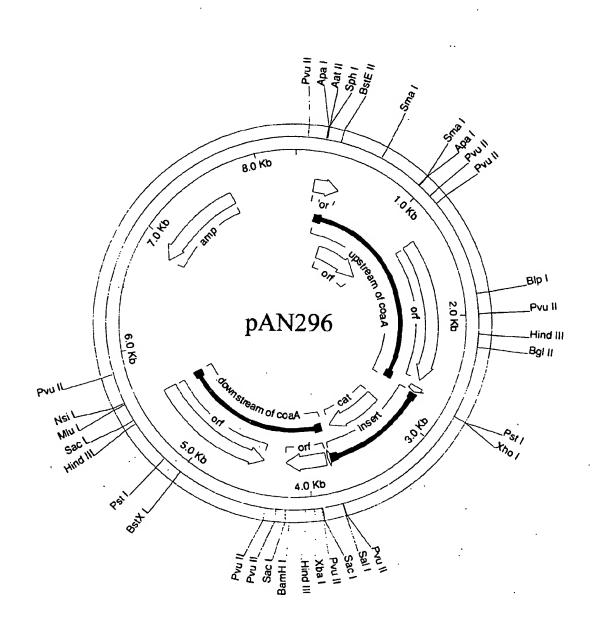


Figure \8 Structure of the B. subtilis chromosome in the region of the coak gene. The scale is in base pairs and the significant open reading frames are shown by the open arrows.

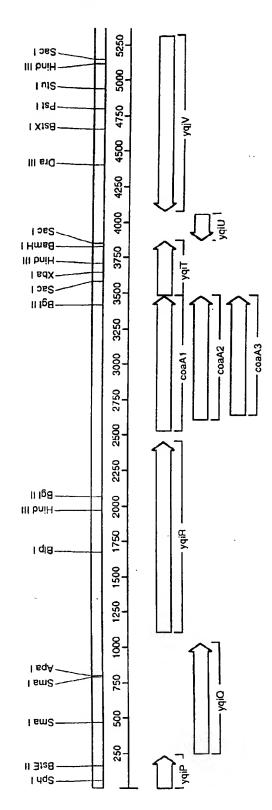
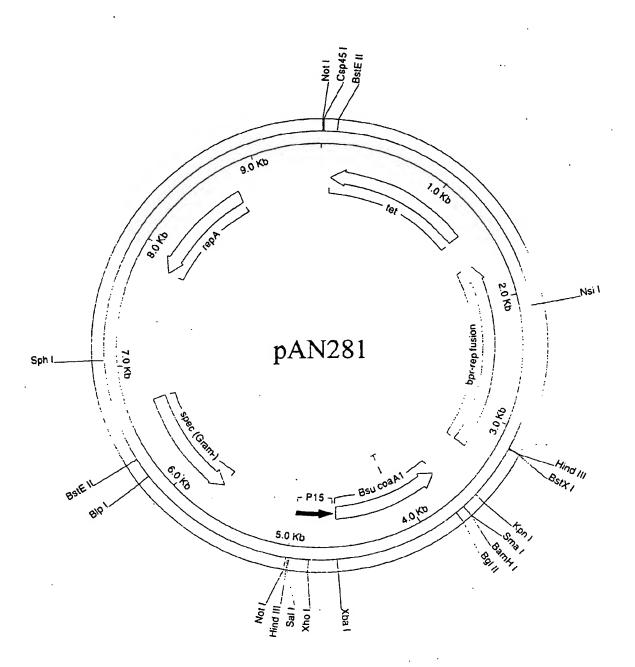


Figure 19 Structure of pAN281, a plasmid for expressing B. subtilis coaA after integration at the bpr locus. pAN282 and pAN283 have similar structures.



CLUSTAL W (1.7) Multiple Sequence Alignments

in 312 aa 312 aa 319 aa 311 aa 316 aa	MPRLSEPSPYVEFDRKQWRALRMSTPLALTEEELIGLRMSRLSEPSPYVEFDRRQWRALRMSTPLALTEEELVGLR MISPVPSIPRSAHRQRPEATPYVDLTRPEWSALRDKTPLPLTAEEVEKLRQTPFLSFNREQWAELRKSVPLKLTEQDLKPLLMSIKEQTLMTPYLQFDRNQWAALRDSVPMTLSEDEIARLK	GLGEQIDLLEVEEVYLPLARLIHLQVAARQRLFAATAEFLGEPQQNPGRP GLGEQIDLLEVEEVYLPLARLIHLQVAARQRLFAATAEFLGEPQQNPDRP GLGDVIDLDEVKDIYLPLSRLLNLYVGATDGLRGALNTFLGEQGSQSG GFNEDLSLDEVYTIYLPLTRLINYYIDENLHRQTVLHRFLGRNNAK GINEDLSLEEVAEIYLPLSRLLNYYISSNLRRQAVLEQFLGTNGQR GLNDYLSVEEVETIYIPLVRLLHHVKSAAERNKHVNVFLKHPHSAK *::: ::* ** **:	VPFIIGVAGSVAVGKSTTARVLQALLARWDHHTRVDLVTTDGFLYPNAEL VPFIIGVAGSVAVGKSTTARVLQALLARWDHHPRVDLVTTDGFLYPNAEL TPFVIGVAGSVAVGKSTVARLLQALLSRWPEHPRVELVTTDGFLLPTREL TPYIISIAGSVAVGKSTSARILQSLSHWPTERKVDLITTDGFLYPINKL IPYIISIAGSVAVGKSTTARVLQALLSRWPEHRRVELITTDGFLYPDVVL IPFIIGIAGSVAVGKSTTARVLQALLSRWPEHRRVELITTDGFLHPNQVL IPFIIGIAGSVAVGKSTTARILQKILSRWPENVSLITTDGFLHPNQVL *::*.:********************************
Sequence type explicitly set to Protein Sequence format is Pearson Sequence 1: sp Q9X795 M.leprae Sequence 2: sp Q9K795 M.leprae Sequence 3: sp Q8479 N.tuberculosis Sequence 4: sp P5455 B.subtilis Sequence 5: sp P44793 H.influenzae Sequence 6: sp P15044 E.coli	spl09X795 M.leprae spl053440 M.tuberculosis spl086779 S.coelicolor MISPVPS sp P44793 H.influenzae sp P15044 E.coli sp P54556 B.subtilis	spl09X795 M.leprae GLGEQID spl083440 M.tuberculosis GLGEQID spl086779 S.coelicolor GLGDVID splP44793 H.influenzae GFNEDLS splP15044 E.coli GINEDLS splP54556 B.subtilis #:::::	splQ9X795 M.leprae splO53440 M.tuberculosis splO86779 S.coelicolor splP44793 H.influenzae TPYIISI splP15044 E.coli splP54556 B.subtilis t:::::

FIG.20B

APVYSHLRYDTIPGA CAPVYSHLHYDIIPGA APVYSHLIYDIVPDQ APIYSHLTYDIIPDK APVYSHLIYDVIPDG CAPVYSHLIYDREGV CAPVYSHLIYDREEGV	VSDLFDFSLYVDARIQD VSDLFDFSLYVDARIED LADYFDFSVYVDARTED VSDFVDFSIYVDAPEDL VSDFFDFSIYVDAPEDL VSDFFDFSIYVDAEESR	VITAAREIWRSINREN AVVAAREIWRTINREN ALDYARTTWRTINKEN AIATASKIWDEINGLN AIKTAMTLWKEINWLN ADEMAASIWESVNREN	
GRRNIMHRKGFPESYNRRALMRFVTSVKSGADYACAPVYSHLRYDTIPGA QRRNIMHRKGFPESYNRRALMRFVTSVKSGSDYACAPVYSHLHYDIIPGA EARGLMSRKGFPESYDRRALTRFVADIKAGKAEVTAPVYSHLIYDIIPDQ KQDNILQKKGFPVSYDTPKIIRFLADVKSGKSNVTAPTYSHLTYDIIPDK KERCLMKKKGFPESYDMHRLVKFVSDLKSGVPNVTAPVYSHLTYDVIPDG KKRNMMSRKGFPESYDVKALLEFLNDLKSGKDSVKAPVYSHLTYDREEGV .:: .*** ***	KHUVRHPDILILEGLNVLQTGPTLMVSDLFDFSLYVDARIQD EQUVRHPDILILEGLNVLQTGPTLMVSDLFDFSLYVDARIED RLUVRRPDILIVEGLNVLQPALPGKDGRT-RVGLADYFDFSVYVDARTED FDVVDKPDILILEGLNVLQTGNNKTD-QTFVSDFVDFSIYVDAEEKL DKTVVQPDILILEGLNVLQSGMDYPHDPH-HVFVSDFVDFSIYVDAPEDL FEVVEQADIVIIEGINVLQSPTLEDDRENPRIFVSDFFDFSIYVDAEESR	IEQWYVSRFLAMRGTAFADPESHFHHYSALTDSKAIIAAREIWRSINRFN IEQWYVSRFLAMRTTAFADPESHFHHYAAFSDSQAVVAAREIWRTINRFN IERWYLNRFRKLRATAFQNPSSYFRKYTQVSEEEALDYARTTWRTINKFN LKEWYIKRFLKFRESAFNDPNSYFKHYASLSKEEALDTASKIWDEINGLN LQTWYINRFLKFREGAFTDPDSYFHNYAKLTKEEAIKTAMTLWKEINWLN IFTWYLERFRLLRETAFQNPDSYFHKFKDLSDQEADEMAASIWESVNRPN IFTWYLERFRLLRETAFQNPDSYFHKFKDLSDQEADEMAASIWESVNRPN IFTWYLERFRLLRETAFQNPDSYFHKFKDLSDQEADEMAASIWESVNRPN IFTWYLERFRLLRETAFQNFN;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;	LVENILPTRPRATLVLRKDADHSINRLRLRKL LVENILPTRPRATLVLRKGADHSINRLRLRKL LVENVAPTRGRATLVLRKGPDHKVQRLSLRKL LNQNILPTRERANLILKKGHNHQVELIKLRK- LKQNILPTRERASLILTKSANHAVEEVRLKR- LYENILPTKFRSDLILRKGDGHKVEEVLVRRV LYENILPTKFRSDLILRKGDGHKVEEVLVRRV
splo9X7951M.leprae spl053440 M.tuberculosis spl086779 S.coelicolor spl044793 H.influenzae splp15044 E.coli	sp Q9X795 M.leprae sp O53440 M.tuberculosis sp O86779 S.coelicolor sp P44793 H.influenzae sp P15044 E.coli	splQ9X795!M.leprae splO53440!M.tuberculosis splO86779!S.coelicolor splP44793!H.influenzae splP15044!E.coli splP54556!B.subtilis	splQ9X795 M.leprae splO53440 M.tuberculosis splO86779 S.coelicolor splP44793 H.influenzae splP15044 E.coli

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14000 Il buiH~ I le2-I Uds-13000 It aniH-I izM-I TOTTIEB 12000 tulM-Sac I -Kpn I Il ouiH-- Swa I - Bst1107 I -. 80. III buiH-L'yacB _ 0000 III puiH~ I ut2-I BWS III buiH-0006 -C20491 1 EOS-Il oniH-Il oniHyacD 900 III buiH-11 tp8-Sall - Sall 1 802-\ | \ | \ | \ | \ | \ Csp451 · Csp451 2000 I ShqeD-0009 - pabB It oniH-Bam HI - 8gl II Stul - Swal I ISdi ISd--C2045 I 2000 III buiH-- C2542 1 Pst I - Pst I pathC 4000 1388 I nis. I ISN . I Hms8. III PUIH~ 3000 If aniH · · 115d -104X -L cal 2000 IMS. II sniH . 1185 000 11 aniH~ 1 805 ----

Figure 1

Figure 22 Structure of pAN341 and pAN342, two independent PCR- derived clones of yacB (renamed coaX).

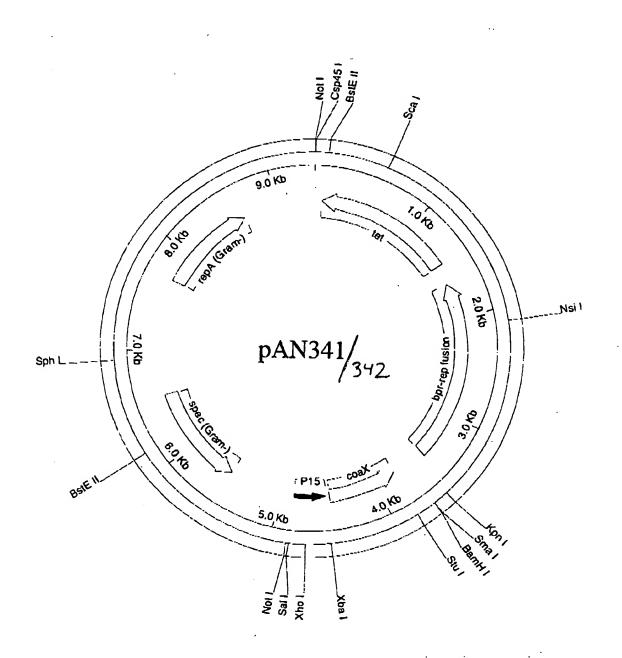


FIG.23A

CLUSTAL W (1.7) Multiple Sequence Alignments

PDARKTQDEYSLLIHALCERAG----VGRASLRDAFISSVVPVLTKTIAD

TDSRRTADELAVLLQGLMGMHPLLGDELGDGIDGIAICATVPSVLHELRE TOHRRTADEYFVWLNTLMQLK-----GLQGRISEAIISSTAPRVVFNLRV TDPGQTTDSIGLRLLEVLRHAG----LGPADVGACVASSVVPGVNPLIRR TNREMLPODLALQLHGLFTLA----GAP-IPRAAVLSSVAPPVGENYAL TGVFQTEDELFSHLHPLLG-----DAMREIKGIGVASVVPTQNTVIER

SRHKTEDEFGMILRSLFDHS----GLMFEQIDGIIISSVVPFIMFALER DVLRSADEYGIQVMNLFQQD----KLDPTLVEGVIISSVVPNIMYSLEH TESEVTADELALTIDGLIG-----EDSERLTGTAALSTVPSVLHEVRI

> WIT!RCA03301|C.acetobutylicum WIT! RRC02473|R. capsulatus dbj!BAA21476.1!D.vulgaris spl006282|M.tuberculosis gb|AAD35964.1|T.maritima B.subtilis|Coax|SEQIDNO pir | T36391 | S. coelicolor splQ9RX54|D.radiodurans splP74045|Synechocystis spl051477|B.burgdorferi sp|025533|H.pylori sp|Q45338|B.pertussis spl0834461T.pallidum spi0677531A.aeolicus

> > €. •

SGNAPLQTWVTDYNPKSAQLP------VLLGKVPLMLASVVPE TNLMLRYDEVYSFEENFDFN----VN---K-VFISSVVPILNETFKN DFLKLSHEEFLKEEFPKLK------ALGISVKQSFSEKVRG IHFAQNYQLFSSAKEDLKR-------LGIQKEIFYISVNEE ATLRAGGCDIRWLRAQP-LAMGLRNGYRNPDQLGADRWACMVGVLARQPS AFDNLDLDALGRWLATLPRRP-----Q----RALGVNVAGLARGEAIA MIRKYFKINPLVVG-PG-IKTGINIKYDNPKEVGADRIVNAVAAHEIYK-AVAQISGVQPVVFGPWAYEHLPVRIPEPVRAEIGTDLVANAVAAYVHFR-QTEVWRVYQPKILTLKN---LPLVNLYP---SFGIDRALAGLGTGLTYG-NEKALLNCYPNAKNIAG--FFHLETDYVG---LGIDRQMACLA---VN--VTRRYYGDVPAVLVEPG-VKTGVPILTDHPKEVGADRIINAVAAVELYG-MLDQYWPSVPHVLIEPG-VRTGIPLLVDNPKEVGADRIVNCLAAYDRFR-LCNRYFDCRPYVVGKPG-CELPVAPRVDPGTTVGPDRLVNTVAGYDRHG-ACERYL--YRKLLFAPGDIAIPLDNRYERPAEVGADRLVAAYAARRLYP-ALKRHFMI DAFAVSAEN--LPDVTVELDTPGSVGADRLCNLFGAEKYLG-FSQKYFHISPIWVKAKN---GCVKWNVKNPSEVGADRVANVVAFVKEYG-VI FSFFKI KPLFI GFDLNYDLTFNPYKS DKFLLGSDVFANLVAAI ENYS-KI PKIK----FLKKEN---FPIQVDYKTPETLGTDRVALAYSAKKFYG-MCTKYFHIEPQIVG-PG-MKTGLNIKYDNPKEVGADRIVNAVAAIHLYG-

٠.

WIT! RCA03301 | C. acetobutylicum dbj|BAA21476.1|D.vulgaris WIT!RRC02473|R.capsulatus spl006282|M.tuberculosis gb/AAD35964.11T.maritima B.subtilis|CoaX|SEQIDNO_ splQ9RX54|D.radiodurans splP74045|Synechocystis pir/T36391|S.coelicolor spl0514771B.burgdorferi splQ453381B.pertussis spl0834461T.pallidum sp10677531A.aeolicus sp10255331H.pylori

WIT!RCA03301|C.acetobutylicum B.subtilis/Coax/SEQIDNO 9 WIT!RRC02473|R.capsulatus dbj|BAA21476.1|D.vulgaris sp!006282!M.tuberculosis gb|AAD35964.1|T.maritima sp|Q9RX54|D.radiodurans pir/T36391/S.coelicolor splP74045|Synechocystis sp|051477|B.burgdorferi spl045338|B.pertussis sp!083446IT.pallidum spi0677531A.aeolicus |025533|H.pylori gs

GPRSLVSVDFGTATTFDCVEG-GAYLGGLICPGVLSSAGALSSRTAKLPR KA--AIVVDFGSSICVDVVSAKGEFLGGAIAPGVQVSSDAAARSAALRR GLDYAVVVDFGTSTNFDVVGRGRRFLGGILATGAQVSADALFARAAKLPR FP--CLVVDGGTALTITGFDQDKKLVGGAILPGLGLQLATLGDRLAALPK RS--LIIIDFGTATTFCAVRENGDYLGGAICPGIKVSSEALFEKAAKLPR GP--AIVVDFGTATTFDAVSARGEYIGGVIAPGIEISVEALGVKGAQLRK GD--LIVVDFGTATTFDVVAPDGAYIGGVIAPGVNLSLEALHMAAAALPH KN--GIIIDMGTATTVDLVVN-GSYEGGAILPGFFMMVHSLFRGTAKLPL SA--CVVVDCGTALTFTAVDGTGLIQGVAIAPGLRTAVQSLHTGTAQLPL FEN-VLVVDLGTACTIFAVSRQDGILGGIINSGPLINFNSLLDNAYLIKK KN--VVVISAGTALVIDLVLE-GKFKGGFITLGLGKKLKILSDLAEGIPE NG---VVVDAGSAITIDLIKE-GKHLGGCILPGLAQYIHAYKKSAKILEQ VHPPLLVASFGTATTLDTIGPDNVFPGGLILPGPAMMKGALAYGTAHLPL NP--LIVVDFGTATTYCYIDENKQYMGGALAPGITISTEALYSRAAKLPR *

IEVARPRS---VICKNTVEAMQSGIVYGFAGQVDGVVNRMARELADD--P VELARPRS---VVGKNTVECMQAGAVFGFAGLVDGLVGRIREDVSGFSVD VELIKPAY---AICKNTISSIQSGIVYRYLRQVKYLFEKLKENLPDGRRT LEITRPDN----IIGKNTVSAMQSGILFGYVGQVEGIVKRMKWQAKQDLK-ITLQAPET---AIGKNTVHALQSGLVFGYAEMVDGLLRRIRAELPGE---VEVKPADF---VVGKDTEENIRLGVVNGSVYALEGIIGRIKEVYGDLP--FFPEEVEI---FLGRSTRECVLGGAYRESTEFIKSTLKLWRKVFKRK---LEMDQLTELPORWALDTPSAIFSGVVYGVLGALQSYLQDWQKLFPGA---ADGLVADY----PIDTHQAIASGIAAAQAGAIVRQWLAGRQRYGQAP--VDVTKPQG----VIGTNTVACIQSGVYWGYIGLVEGIVRQIRMERDRP--VPLALPDS---VLGKDTTHAVQAGVVRGTLFVIRAMIAQCQKELGCR-FPISTPNN----LLERTTSGSVNSGLFYQYKYLIEGVYRDIKQMYKKK-ISLEVEEDS-PVIGRSTTTSLNHGFIFGFAAMTEGVLAA-----?FKALDSL--EVLPKSTRDAVNYGMVLSVIACIQHLAK--NQK----

FIG.23D

			osis HDVAIVATGHTAPLLLPELHTVDHYDQHLTLQGLRLV	latus MKVIATGGLASLFDLGFDLFDKVEDDLTMHGLRLI	garis	ansAVAVATGG		CAAVITGGLSRLFS-SEVDFPPIDAQLTLSGLAHI		FKVVITGGEGKYFSKFGIYDPLLVHRGMRNL	tisAMVITGGDGKILHGFLKEHSPNLSVAWDDNLIFLGMAAI	IYLCGGDAKYLSAFLPHSVCKERLVFDGMEIA	
B.subtilis CoaX SEQIDNO_9	WIT!RCA03301 C.acetobutylicum	pir T36391 S.coelicolor	spl006282 M.tuberculosis	WIT RRC02473 R.capsulatus	dbj!BAA21476.1 D.vulgaris	splQ9RX54 D.radiodurans	gb AAD35964.1 T.maritima	spl083446 T.pallidum	sp 051477 B.burgdorferi	spl0677531A.aeolicus	sp P74045 Synechocystis	spl0255331H.pylori	sp1045338/B.pertussis

Figure 24 Alignment of a portion of the amino acid sequences of several known or suspected pantothenate kinases. The residues that are mutated in E. coli coa A15(Ts) and B. subtills coa A from plasmid pAN282A are indicated below and above the alignment, respectively. The coordinate given in the left margin for the B. subtills protein refers to the coa A1 open reading frame.

K D N V T A P V Y S H L I Y D I I P G A Majority		B. subtilis Coad 1 E. coli Coad H. influenzae Coad M. leprae Coad M. niberculosis Coad S. coelecolor Coad
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Ξ		HEEEE
S	-	0 0 0 0 0 0 A
>		>>>>>
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م	•	<u> </u>
∢		44444
H		X F F O O F
>		>>> < <>
Z		ω z z > z
Q	}	ADDSPD
×		K D S V K A P V Y S H L T Y D R E E G V V P N V T A P V Y S H L T Y D V T P D G K S N V T A P I Y S H L T Y D I I P D K A D Y A C A P V Y S H L R Y D T I P G A S D Y A C A P V Y S H L H Y D I I P G A K S D Y A C A P V Y S H L H Y D I I P G A K S D Y A C A P V Y S H L H Y D I V P D Q S K A E V T A P V Y S H L I Y D I V P D Q S K A E V T A P V T P V T P V P T P V
		168 167 169 169 179

Figure 25 Structure of pAN294, a plasmid for integrating mutagenized B. subtilis coaA at its native locus.

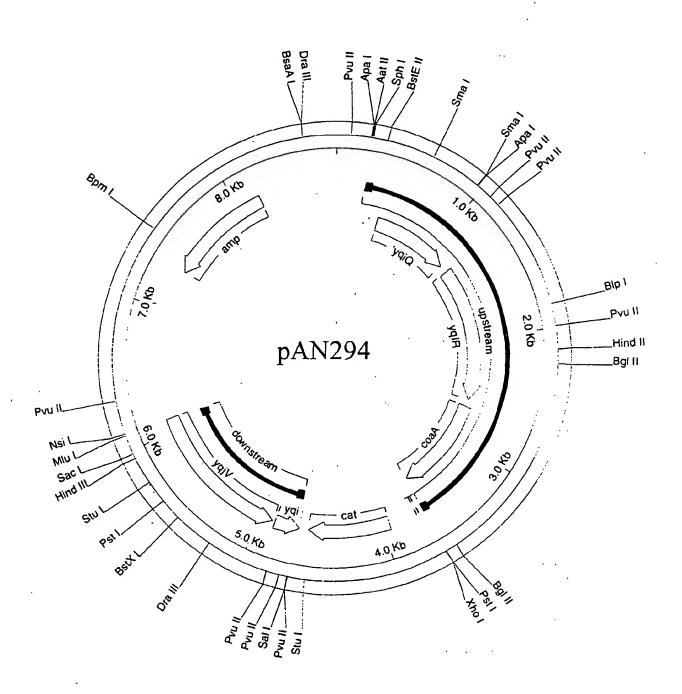
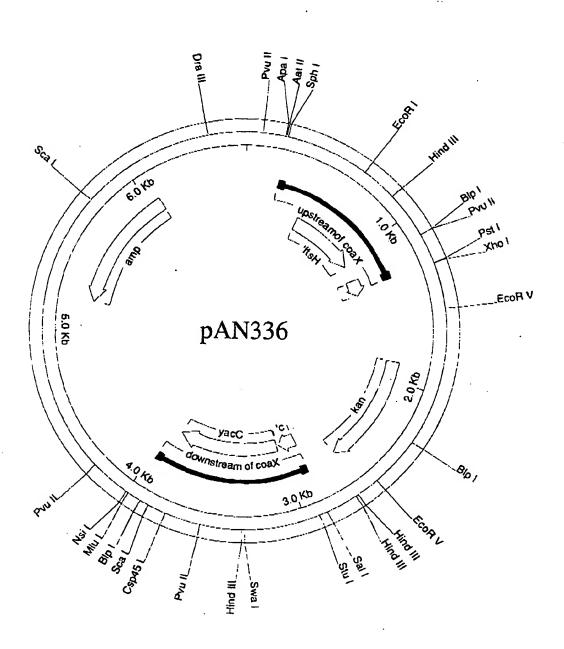


Figure 26 Structure of pAN336, a plasmid designed to delete B. subtilis coaX from the chromosome and replace it with a kanamycin resistance gene.



WO 01/21772 PCT/US00/25993

-1-

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> OMNIGENE BIOPRODUCTS

<120> METHODS AND MICROORGANISMS FOR PRODUCTION OF PANTO-COMPOUNDS.

<130> BGI-141CPPC

<140>

<141>

<150> USSN 09/400,494

<151> 1999-09-21

<150> USSN 60/210,072

<151> 2000-06-07

<150> USSN 60/221,836

<151> 2000-07-28

<150> USSN 60/221,836

<151> 2000-08-24

<160> 94

<170> PatentIn Ver. 2.0

<210> 1

<211> 311

<212> PRT

<213> Haemophilus influenzae

<400> 1

Met Glu Phe Ser Thr Gln Gln Thr Pro Phe Leu Ser Phe Asn Arg Glu $1 \hspace{1cm} 5 \hspace{1cm} 10 \hspace{1cm} 15$

Gln Trp Ala Glu Leu Arg Lys Ser Val Pro Leu Lys Leu Thr Glu Gln 20 25 30

Asp Leu Lys Pro Leu Leu Gly Phe Asn Glu Asp Leu Ser Leu Asp Glu 35 40 45

Val Ser Thr Ile Tyr Leu Pro Leu Thr Arg Leu Ile Asn Tyr Tyr Ile 50 55 60

Asp Glu Asn Leu His Arg Gln Thr Val Leu His Arg Phe Leu Gly Arg 65 70 75 80

Asn Asn Ala Lys Thr Pro Tyr Ile Ile Ser Ile Ala Gly Ser Val Ala 85 90 95

Val Gly Lys Ser Thr Ser Ala Arg Ile Leu Gln Ser Leu Leu Ser His 100 105 110

Trp Pro Thr Glu Arg Lys Val Asp Leu Ile Thr Thr Asp Gly Phe Leu 115 120 125

- 2 -

Tyr Pro Leu Asn Lys Leu Lys Gln Asp Asn Leu Leu Gln Lys Lys Gly

Phe Pro Val Ser Tyr Asp Thr Pro Lys Leu Ile Arg Phe Leu Ala Asp 145 150 155 160

Val Lys Ser Gly Lys Ser Asn Val Thr Ala Pro Ile Tyr Ser His Leu 165 170 175

Thr Tyr Asp Ile Ile Pro Asp Lys Phe Asp Val Val Asp Lys Pro Asp 180 185 190

Ile Leu Ile Leu Glu Gly Leu Asn Val Leu Gln Thr Gly Asn Asn Lys 195 200 205

Thr Asp Gln Thr Phe Val Ser Asp Phe Val Asp Phe Ser Ile Tyr Val 210 215 220

Asp Ala Glu Glu Lys Leu Leu Lys Glu Trp Tyr Ile Lys Arg Phe Leu 225 230 235 240

Lys Phe Arg Glu Ser Ala Phe Asn Asp Pro Asn Ser Tyr Phe Lys His 245 250 255

Tyr Ala Ser Leu Ser Lys Glu Glu Ala Ile Ala Thr Ala Ser Lys Ile 260 265 270

Trp Asp Glu Ile Asn Gly Leu Asn Leu Asn Gln Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr 275 280 285

Arg Glu Arg Ala Asn Leu Ile Leu Lys Lys Gly His Asn His Gln Val 290 295 300

Glu Leu Ile Lys Leu Arg Lys 305 310

<210> 2

<211> 316

<212> PRT

<213> Escherichia coli

<400> 2

Met Ser Ile Lys Glu Gln Thr Leu Met Thr Pro Tyr Leu Gln Phe Asp 1 5 10 15

Arg Asn Gln Trp Ala Ala Leu Arg Asp Ser Val Pro Met Thr Leu Ser 20 25 30

Glu Asp Glu Ile Ala Arg Leu Lys Gly Ile Asn Glu Asp Leu Ser Leu 35 40 45

Glu Glu Val Ala Glu Ile Tyr Leu Pro Leu Ser Arg Leu Leu Asn Phe 50 55 60

Tyr Ile Ser Ser Asn Leu Arg Arg Gln Ala Val Leu Glu Gln Phe Leu 65 70 75 80

- 3 -

Gly Thr Asn Gly Gln Arg Ile Pro Tyr Ile Ile Ser Ile Ala Gly Ser 85 90 95

Val Ala Val Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Ala Arg Val Leu Gln Ala Leu Leu 100 105 110

Ser Arg Trp Pro Glu His Arg Arg Val Glu Leu Ile Thr Thr Asp Gly 115 120 125

Phe Leu His Pro Asn Gln Val Leu Lys Glu Arg Gly Leu Met Lys Lys 130 135 140

Lys Gly Phe Pro Glu Ser Tyr Asp Met His Arg Leu Val Lys Phe Val 145 150 155

Ser Asp Leu Lys Ser Gly Val Pro Asn Val Thr Ala Pro Val Tyr Ser 165 170 175

His Leu Ile Tyr Asp Val Ile Pro Asp Gly Asp Lys Thr Val Val Gln 180 185 190

Pro Asp Ile Leu Ile Leu Glu Gly Leu Asn Val Leu Gln Ser Gly Met 195 200 205

Asp Tyr Pro His Asp Pro His His Val Phe Val Ser Asp Phe Val Asp 210 215 220

Phe Ser Ile Tyr Val Asp Ala Pro Glu Asp Leu Leu Gln Thr Trp Tyr 225 230 235 240

Ile Asn Arg Phe Leu Lys Phe Arg Glu Gly Ala Phe Thr Asp Pro Asp 245 250 255

Ser Tyr Phe His Asn Tyr Ala Lys Leu Thr Lys Glu Glu Ala Ile Lys 260 265 270

Thr Ala Met Thr Leu Trp Lys Glu Ile Asn Trp Leu Asn Leu Lys Gln 275 . 280 285

Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr Arg Glu Arg Ala Ser Leu Ile Leu Thr Lys Ser 290 295 300

Ala Asn His Ala Val Glu Glu Val Arg Leu Arg Lys 305 310 315

<210> 3

<211> 319

<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

<400> 3

Met Lys Asn Lys Glu Leu Asn Leu His Thr Leu Tyr Thr Gln His Asn 1 5 10 15

Arg Glu Ser Trp Ser Gly Phe Gly Gly His Leu Ser Ile Ala Val Ser 20 25 30

- 4 -

Glu Glu Glu Ala Lys Ala Val Glu Gly Leu Asn Asp Tyr Leu Ser Val 35 40 45

Glu Glu Val Glu Thr Ile Tyr Ile Pro Leu Val Arg Leu Leu His Leu 50 55 60

His Val Lys Ser Ala Ala Glu Arg Asn Lys His Val Asn Val Phe Leu 65 70 75 80

Lys His Pro His Ser Ala Lys Ile Pro Phe Ile Ile Gly Ile Ala Gly 85 90 95

Ser Val Ala Val Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Ala Arg Ile Leu Gln Lys Leu 100 105 110

Leu Ser Arg Leu Pro Asp Arg Pro Lys Val Ser Leu Ile Thr Thr Asp 115 120 125

Gly Phe Leu Phe Pro Thr Ala Glu Leu Lys Lys Lys Asn Met Met Ser 130 135 140

Arg Lys Gly Phe Pro Glu Ser Tyr Asp Val Lys Ala Leu Leu Glu Phe 145 150 155 160

Leu Asn Asp Leu Lys Ser Gly Lys Asp Ser Val Lys Ala Pro Val Tyr 165 170 175

Ser His Leu Thr Tyr Asp Arg Glu Glu Gly Val Phe Glu Val Val Glu 180 185 190

Gln Ala Asp Ile Val Ile Ile Glu Gly Ile Asn Val Leu Gln Ser Pro 195 200 205

Thr Leu Glu Asp Asp Arg Glu Asn Pro Arg Ile Phe Val Ser Asp Phe 210 215 220 ·

Phe Asp Phe Ser Ile Tyr Val Asp Ala Glu Glu Ser Arg Ile Phe Thr 225 230 235 240

Trp Tyr Leu Glu Arg Phe Arg Leu Leu Arg Glu Thr Ala Phe Gln Asn 245 250 255

Pro Asp Ser Tyr Phe His Lys Phe Lys Asp Leu Ser Asp Gln Glu Ala 260 265 270

Asp Glu Met Ala Ala Ser Ile Trp Glu Ser Val Asn Arg Pro Asn Leu 275 280 285

Tyr Glu Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr Lys Phe Arg Ser Asp Leu Ile Leu Arg 290 295 300

Lys Gly Asp Gly His Lys Val Glu Glu Val Leu Val Arg Arg Val 305 310 315

<210> 4

<211> 312

<212> PRT

- 5 -

WO 01/21772 PCT/US00/25993

<213> Mycobacterium leprae

<400> 4

Met Pro Arg Leu Ser Glu Pro Ser Pro Tyr Val Glu Phe Asp Arg Lys

1 10 15

Gln Trp Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Ser Thr Pro Leu Ala Leu Thr Glu Glu 20 25 30

Glu Leu Ile Gly Leu Arg Gly Leu Gly Glu Gln Ile Asp Leu Leu Glu 35 40 45

Val Glu Glu Val Tyr Leu Pro Leu Ala Arg Leu Ile His Leu Gln Val 50 55 60

Ala Ala Arg Gin Arg Leu Phe Ala Ala Thr Ala Glu Phe Leu Gly Glu 65 70 75 80

Pro Gln Gln Asn Pro Gly Arg Pro Val Pro Phe Ile Ile Gly Val Ala 85 90 95

Gly Ser Val Ala Val Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Ala Arg Val Leu Gln Ala 100 105 110

Leu Leu Ala Arg Trp Asp His His Thr Arg Val Asp Leu Val Thr Thr 115 120 125

Asp Gly Phe Leu Tyr Pro Asn Ala Glu Leu Gly Arg Asn Leu Met 130 135 140

His Arg Lys Gly Phe Pro Glu Ser Tyr Asn Arg Arg Ala Leu Met Arg 145 150 155 . 160

Phe Val Thr Ser Val Lys Ser Gly Ala Asp Tyr Ala Cys Ala Pro Val 165 170 175

Tyr Ser His Leu Arg Tyr Asp Thr Ile Pro Gly Ala Lys His Val Val 180 185 190

Arg His Pro Asp Ile Leu Ile Leu Glu Gly Leu Asn Val Leu Gln Thr 195 200 205

Gly Pro Thr Leu Met Val Ser Asp Leu Phe Asp Phe Ser Leu Tyr Val 210 . 215 220

Asp Ala Arg Ile Gln Asp Ile Glu Gln Trp Tyr Val Ser Arg Phe Leu 225 230 235 240

Ala Met Arg Gly Thr Ala Phe Ala Asp Pro Glu Ser His Phe His His $245 \hspace{1.5cm} 250 \hspace{1.5cm} 255$

Tyr Ser Ala Leu Thr Asp Ser Lys Ala Ile Ile Ala Ala Arg Glu Ile 260 265 270

Trp Arg Ser Ile Asn Arg Pro Asn Leu Val Glu Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr 275 . 280 285

Arg Pro Arg Ala Thr Leu Val Leu Arg Lys Asp Ala Asp His Ser Ile

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290 295 300 Asn Arg Leu Arg Leu Arg Lys Leu 310 <210> 5 <211> 312 <212> PRT <213> Mycobacterium tuberculosis Met Ser Arg Leu Ser Glu Pro Ser Pro Tyr Val Glu Phe Asp Arg Arg Gln Trp Arg Ala Leu Arg Met Ser Thr Pro Leu Ala Leu Thr Glu Glu Glu Leu Val Gly Leu Arg Gly Leu Gly Glu Gln Ile Asp Leu Leu Glu Val Glu Glu Val Tyr Leu Pro Leu Ala Arg Leu Ile His Leu Gln Val Ala Ala Arg Gln Arg Leu Phe Ala Ala Thr Ala Glu Phe Leu Gly Glu Pro Gln Gln Asn Pro Asp Arg Pro Val Pro Phe Ile Ile Gly Val Ala Gly Ser Val Ala Val Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Ala Arg Val Leu Gln Ala Leu Leu Ala Arg Trp Asp His His Pro Arg Val Asp Leu Val Thr Thr Asp Gly Phe Leu Tyr Pro Asn Ala Glu Leu Gln Arg Arg Asn Leu Met 135 His Arg Lys Gly Phe Pro Glu Ser Tyr Asn Arg Arg Ala Leu Met Arg Phe Val Thr Ser Val Lys Ser Gly Ser Asp Tyr Ala Cys Ala Pro Val Tyr Ser His Leu His Tyr Asp Ile Ile Pro Gly Ala Glu Gln Val Val Arg His Pro Asp Ile Leu Ile Leu Glu Gly Leu Asn Val Leu Gln Thr 200 Gly Pro Thr Leu Met Val Ser Asp Leu Phe Asp Phe Ser Leu Tyr Val Asp Ala Arg Ile Glu Asp Ile Glu Gln Trp Tyr Val Ser Arg Phe Leu 225 230 235

Ala Met Arg Thr Thr Ala Phe Ala Asp Pro Glu Ser His Phe His His

- 7 **-**

245 250 255

Tyr Ala Ala Phe Ser Asp Ser Gln Ala Val Val Ala Ala Arg Glu Ile 260 265 270

Trp Arg Thr Ile Asn Arg Pro Asn Leu Val Glu Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr 275 280 285

Arg Pro Arg Ala Thr Leu Val Leu Arg Lys Asp Ala Asp His Ser Ile 290 295 300

Asn Arg Leu Arg Leu Arg Lys Leu 305 310

<210> 6

<211> 329

<212> PRT

<213> Streptomyces coelicolor

<400> 6

Met Ile Ser Pro Val Pro Ser Ile Pro Arg Ser Ala His Arg Gln Arg
1 5 10 15

Pro Glu Ala Thr Pro Tyr Val Asp Leu Thr Arg Pro Glu Trp Ser Ala 20 25 30

Leu Arg Asp Lys Thr Pro Leu Pro Leu Thr Ala Glu Glu Val Glu Lys 35 40 45

Leu Arg Gly Leu Gly Asp Val Ile Asp Leu Asp Glu Val Arg Asp Ile 50

Tyr Leu Pro Leu Ser Arg Leu Leu Asn Leu Tyr Val Gly Ala Thr Asp 65 70 75 80

Gly Leu Arg Gly Ala Leu Asn Thr Phe Leu Gly Glu Gln Gly Ser Gln 85 90 95

Ser Gly Thr Pro Phe Val Ile Gly Val Ala Gly Ser Val Ala Val Gly 100 105 110

Lys Ser Thr Val Ala Arg Leu Leu Gln Ala Leu Leu Ser Arg Trp Pro 115 120 125

Glu His Pro Arg Val Glu Leu Val Thr Thr Asp Gly Phe Leu Leu Pro 130 135 140

Thr Arg Glu Leu Glu Ala Arg Gly Leu Met Ser Arg Lys Gly Phe Pro 145 150 155 160

Glu Ser Tyr Asp Arg Arg Ala Leu Thr Arg Phe Val Ala Asp Ile Lys 165 170 175

Ala Gly Lys Ala Glu Val Thr Ala Pro Val Tyr Ser His Leu Ile Tyr 180 185 190

Asp Ile Val Pro Asp Gln Arg Leu Val Val Arg Arg Pro Asp Ile Leu

- 8 -

195 200 205 Ile Val Glu Gly Leu Asn Val Leu Gln Pro Ala Leu Pro Gly Lys Asp 215 Gly Arg Thr Arg Val Gly Leu Ala Asp Tyr Phe Asp Phe Ser Val Tyr Val Asp Ala Arg Thr Glu Asp Ile Glu Arg Trp Tyr Leu Asn Arg Phe Arg Lys Leu Arg Ala Thr Ala Phe Gln Asn Pro Ser Ser Tyr Phe Arg Lys Tyr Thr Gln Val Ser Glu Glu Glu Ala Leu Asp Tyr Ala Arg Thr 280 Thr Trp Arg Thr Ile Asn Lys Pro Asn Leu Val Glu Asn Val Ala Pro Thr Arg Gly Arg Ala Thr Leu Val Leu Arg Lys Gly Pro Asp His Lys 315 Val Gln Arg Leu Ser Leu Arg Lys Leu 325 <210> 7 <211> 265 <212> PRT <213> Streptomyces coelicolor <400> 7 Met Leu Leu Thr Ile Asp Val Gly Asn Thr His Thr Val Leu Gly Leu Phe Asp Gly Glu Asp Ile Val Glu His Trp Arg Ile Ser Thr Asp Ser Arg Arg Thr Ala Asp Glu Leu Ala Val Leu Leu Gln Gly Leu Met Gly Met His Pro Leu Gly Asp Glu Leu Gly Asp Gly Ile Asp Gly Ile 55 Ala Ile Cys Ala Thr Val Pro Ser Val Leu His Glu Leu Arg Glu Val Thr Arg Arg Tyr Tyr Gly Asp Val Pro Ala Val Leu Val Glu Pro Gly Val Lys Thr Gly Val Pro Ile Leu Thr Asp His Pro Lys Glu Val Gly Ala Asp Arg Ile Ile Asn Ala Val Ala Ala Val Glu Leu Tyr Gly Gly 120 125 Pro Ala Ile Val Val Asp Phe Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Phe Asp Ala Val

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130 135 140 Ser Ala Arg Gly Glu Tyr Ile Gly Gly Val Ile Ala Pro Gly Ile Glu 155 Ile Ser Val Glu Ala Leu Gly Val Lys Gly Ala Gln Leu Arg Lys Ile 165 Glu Val Ala Arg Pro Arg Ser Val Ile Gly Lys Asn Thr Val Glu Ala Met Gln Ser Gly Ile Val Tyr Gly Phe Ala Gly Gln Val Asp Gly Val Val Asn Arg Met Ala Arg Glu Leu Ala Asp Asp Pro Asp Asp Val Thr Val Ile Ala Thr Gly Gly Leu Ala Pro Met Val Leu Gly Glu Ser Ser 230 Val Ile Asp Glu His Glu Pro Trp Leu Thr Leu Met Gly Leu Arg Leu 250 Val Tyr Glu Arg Asn Val Ser Arg Met <210> 8 <211> 272 <212> PRT <213> Mycobacterium tuberculosis <400> 8 Met Leu Leu Ala Ile Asp Val Arg Asn Thr His Thr Val Val Gly Leu Leu Ser Gly Met Lys Glu His Ala Lys Val Val Gln Gln Trp Arg Ile Arg Thr Glu Ser Glu Val Thr Ala Asp Glu Leu Ala Leu Thr Ile Asp Gly Leu Ile Gly Glu Asp Ser Glu Arg Leu Thr Gly Thr Ala Ala Leu 55 Ser Thr Val Pro Ser Val Leu His Glu Val Arg Ile Met Leu Asp Gln Tyr Trp Pro Ser Val Pro His Val Leu Ile Glu Pro Gly Val Arg Thr 85 Gly Ile Pro Leu Leu Val Asp Asn Pro Lys Glu Val Gly Ala Asp Arg Ile Val Asn Cys Leu Ala Ala Tyr Asp Arg Phe Arg Lys Ala Ala Ile 120 Val Val Asp Phe Gly Ser Ser Ile Cys Val Asp Val Val Ser Ala Lys

- 10 -

130 135 140 Gly Glu Phe Leu Gly Gly Ala Ile Ala Pro Gly Val Gln Val Ser Ser 150 Asp Ala Ala Ala Arg Ser Ala Ala Leu Arg Arg Val Glu Leu Ala Arg Pro Arg Ser Val Val Gly Lys Asn Thr Val Glu Cys Met Gln Ala Gly Ala Val Phe Gly Phe Ala Gly Leu Val Asp Gly Leu Val Gly Arg Ile Arg Glu Asp Val Ser Gly Phe Ser Val Asp His Asp Val Ala Ile Val Ala Thr Gly His Thr Ala Pro Leu Leu Pro Glu Leu His Thr Val Asp His Tyr Asp Gln His Leu Thr Leu Gln Gly Leu Arg Leu Val 245 250 Phe Glu Arg Asn Leu Glu Val Gln Arg Gly Arg Leu Lys Thr Ala Arg 265 <210> 9

<211> 258 <212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

<400> 9

Leu Leu Val Ile Asp Val Gly Asn Thr Asn Thr Val Leu Gly Val

Tyr His Asp Gly Lys Leu Glu Tyr His Trp Arg Ile Glu Thr Ser Arg

His Lys Thr Glu Asp Glu Phe Gly Met Ile Leu Arg Ser Leu Phe Asp

His Ser Gly Leu Met Phe Glu Gln Ile Asp Gly Ile Ile Ile Ser Ser 55

Val Val Pro Pro Ile Met Phe Ala Leu Glu Arg Met Cys Thr Lys Tyr

Phe His Ile Glu Pro Gln Ile Val Gly Pro Gly Met Lys Thr Gly Leu 90

Asn Ile Lys Tyr Asp Asn Pro Lys Glu Val Gly Ala Asp Arg Ile Val 105

Asn Ala Val Ala Ala Ile His Leu Tyr Gly Asn Pro Leu Ile Val Val 120

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PCT/US00/25993

Asp Phe Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Tyr Cys Tyr Ile Asp Glu Asn Lys Gln 130 135 140

Tyr Met Gly Gly Ala Ile Ala Pro Gly Ile Thr Ile Ser Thr Glu Ala 145 150 155 160

Leu Tyr Ser Arg Ala Ala Lys Leu Pro Arg Ile Glu Ile Thr Arg Pro 165 170 175

Asp Asn Ile Ile Gly Lys Asn Thr Val Ser Ala Met Gln Ser Gly Ile 180 185 190

Leu Phe Gly Tyr Val Gly Gln Val Glu Gly Ile Val Lys Arg Met Lys 195 200 205

Trp Gln Ala Lys Gln Asp Leu Lys Val Ile Ala Thr Gly Gly Leu Ala 210 215 220

Pro Leu Ile Ala Asn Glu Ser Asp Cys Ile Asp Ile Val Asp Pro Phe 225 230 235 240

Leu Thr Leu Lys Gly Leu Glu Leu Ile Tyr Glu Arg Asn Arg Val Gly \cdot 245 \cdot 250 \cdot 255

Ser Val

WO 01/21772

<210> 10

<211> 262

<212> PRT

<213> Deinococcus radiopugnans

<400> 10

Met Pro Ala Phe Pro Leu Leu Ala Val Asp Ile Gly Asn Thr Thr 1 .5 . 10 . 15

Val Leu Gly Leu Ala Asp Ala Ser Gly Ala Leu Thr His Thr Trp Arg
20 25 30

Ile Arg Thr Asn Arg Glu Met Leu Pro Asp Asp Leu Ala Leu Gln Leu 35 40 . 45

Leu Ser Ser Val Ala Pro Pro Val Gly Glu Asn Tyr Ala Leu Ala Leu 65 70 75 80

Lys Arg His Phe Met Ile Asp Ala Phe Ala Val Ser Ala Glu Asn Leu $85 \hspace{1cm} 90 \hspace{1cm} 95$

Pro Asp Val Thr Val Glu Leu Asp Thr Pro Gly Ser Val Gly Ala Asp 100 105 110

Arg Leu Cys Asn Leu Phe Gly Ala Glu Lys Tyr Leu Gly Gly Leu Asp

- 12 -

120 115 125 Tyr Ala Val Val Asp Phe Gly Thr Ser Thr Asn Phe Asp Val Val 135 Gly Arg Gly Arg Arg Phe Leu Gly Gly Ile Leu Ala Thr Gly Ala Gln Val Ser Ala Asp Ala Leu Phe Ala Arg Ala Ala Lys Leu Pro Arg Ile Thr Leu Gln Ala Pro Glu Thr Ala Ile Gly Lys Asn Thr Val His Ala Leu Gln Ser Gly Leu Val Phe Gly Tyr Ala Glu Met Val Asp Gly Leu Leu Arg Arg Ile Arg Ala Glu Leu Pro Gly Glu Ala Val Ala Val Ala Thr Gly Gly Phe Ser Arg Thr Val Gln Gly Ile Cys Gln Glu Ile Asp 230 235 Tyr Tyr Asp Glu Thr Leu Thr Leu Arg Gly Leu Val Glu Leu Trp Ala 245 Ser Arg Ser Glu Val Arg 260 <210> 11 <211> 212 <212> PRT <213> Desulfovibrio vulgaris <400> 11 Met Thr Gln His Phe Leu Leu Phe Asp Ile Gly Asn Thr Asn Val Lys Ile Gly Ile Ala Val Glu Thr Ala Val Leu Thr Ser Tyr Val Leu Pro Thr Asp Pro Gly Gln Thr Thr Asp Ser Ile Gly Leu Arg Leu Leu Glu 40 Val Leu Arg His Ala Gly Leu Gly Pro Ala Asp Val Gly Ala Cys Val Ala Ser Ser Val Val Pro Gly Val Asn Pro Leu Ile Arg Arg Ala Cys Glu Arg Tyr Leu Tyr Arg Lys Leu Leu Phe Ala Pro Gly Asp Ile Ala Ile Pro Leu Asp Asn Arg Tyr Glu Arg Pro Ala Glu Val Gly Ala Asp 100 105 110

Arg Leu Val Ala Ala Tyr Ala Ala Arg Arg Leu Tyr Pro Gly Pro Arg

- 13 -

115 120 125 Ser Leu Val Ser Val Asp Phe Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Phe Asp Cys Val 135 Glu Gly Gly Ala Tyr Leu Gly Gly Leu Ile Cys Pro Gly Val Leu Ser Ser Ala Gly Ala Leu Ser Ser Arg Thr Ala Lys Leu Pro Arg Ile Ser 165 170 Leu Glu Val Glu Glu Asp Ser Pro Val Ile Gly Arg Ser Thr Thr Thr Ser Leu Asn His Gly Phe Ile Phe Gly Phe Ala Ala Met Thr Glu Gly 200 Val Leu Ala Ala 210 <210> 12 <211> 246 <212> PRT <213> Thermotoga maritima <400> 12 Met Tyr Leu Leu Val Asp Val Gly Asn Thr His Ser Val Phe Ser Ile 10 Thr Glu Asp Gly Lys Thr Phe Arg Arg Trp Arg Leu Ser Thr Gly Val **25** . Phe Gln Thr Glu Asp Glu Leu Phe Ser His Leu His Pro Leu Leu Gly Asp Ala Met Arg Glu Ile Lys Gly Ile Gly Val Ala Ser Val Val Pro Thr Gln Asn Thr Val Ile Glu Arg Phe Ser Gln Lys Tyr Phe His Ile Ser Pro Ile Trp Val Lys Ala Lys Asn Gly Cys Val Lys Trp Asn Val Lys Asn Pro Ser Glu Val Gly Ala Asp Arg Val Ala Asn Val Val Ala Phe Val Lys Glu Tyr Gly Lys Asn Gly Ile Ile Ile Asp Met Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Val Asp Leu Val Val Asn Gly Ser Tyr Glu Gly Gly Ala Ile Leu Pro Gly Phe Phe Met Met Val His Ser Leu Phe Arg Gly Thr 145 155

Ala Lys Leu Pro Leu Val Glu Val Lys Pro Ala Asp Phe Val Val Gly

- 14 -165 170 175 Lys Asp Thr Glu Glu Asn Ile Arg Leu Gly Val Val Asn Gly Ser Val 185 Tyr Ala Leu Glu Gly Ile Ile Gly Arg Ile Lys Glu Val Tyr Gly Asp Leu Pro Val Val Leu Thr Gly Gly Gln Ser Lys Ile Val Lys Asp Met 215 Ile Lys His Glu Ile Phe Asp Glu Asp Leu Thr Ile Lys Gly Val Tyr His Phe Cys Phe Gly Asp <210> 13 <211> 273 <212> PRT <213> Treponema pallidum <400> 13 Met Leu Leu Ile Asp Val Gly Asn Ser His Val Val Phe Gly Ile Gln Gly Glu Asn Gly Gly Arg Val Cys Val Arg Glu Leu Phe Arg Leu Ala Pro Asp Ala Arg Lys Thr Gln Asp Glu Tyr Ser Leu Leu Ile His Ala Leu Cys Glu Arg Ala Gly Val Gly Arg Ala Ser Leu Arg Asp Ala Phe Ile Ser Ser Val Val Pro Val Leu Thr Lys Thr Ile Ala Asp Ala Val Ala Gln Ile Ser Gly Val Gln Pro Val Val Phe Gly Pro Trp Ala Tyr Glu His Leu Pro Val Arg Ile Pro Glu Pro Val Arg Ala Glu Ile Gly 100 Thr Asp Leu Val Ala Asn Ala Val Ala Ala Tyr Val His Phe Arg Ser 120 Ala Cys Val Val Val Asp Cys Gly Thr Ala Leu Thr Phe Thr Ala Val 135 Asp Gly Thr Gly Leu Ile Gln Gly Val Ala Ile Ala Pro Gly Leu Arg 155 Thr Ala Val Gln Ser Leu His Thr Gly Thr Ala Gln Leu Pro Leu Val 170

Pro Leu Ala Leu Pro Asp Ser Val Leu Gly Lys Asp Thr Thr His Ala

- 15 -

180 185 Val Gln Ala Gly Val Val Arg Gly Thr Leu Phe Val Ile Arg Ala Met 200 Ile Ala Gln Cys Gln Lys Glu Leu Gly Cys Arg Cys Ala Ala Val Ile Thr Gly Gly Leu Ser Arg Leu Phe Ser Ser Glu Val Asp Phe Pro Pro 230 235 Ile Asp Ala Gln Leu Thr Leu Ser Gly Leu Ala His Ile Ala Arg Leu Val Pro Thr Ser Leu Leu Pro Pro Ala Thr Val Ser Gly Ser Ser Gly 265 Asn <210> 14 <211> 262 <212> PRT <213> Borrelia burgdorferi Met Asn Lys Pro Leu Leu Ser Glu Leu Ile Ile Asp Ile Gly Asn Thr Ser Ile Ala Phe Ala Leu Phe Lys Asp Asn Gln Val Asn Leu Phe Ile Lys Met Lys Thr Asn Leu Met Leu Arg Tyr Asp Glu Val Tyr Ser Phe Phe Glu Glu Asn Phe Asp Phe Asn Val Asn Lys Val Phe Ile Ser Ser Val Val Pro Ile Leu Asn Glu Thr Phe Lys Asn Val Ile Phe Ser Phe Phe Lys Ile Lys Pro Leu Phe Ile Gly Phe Asp Leu Asn Tyr Asp Leu 85 90 Thr Phe Asn Pro Tyr Lys Ser Asp Lys Phe Leu Leu Gly Ser Asp Val 105 Phe Ala Asn Leu Val Ala Ala Ile Glu Asn Tyr Ser Phe Glu Asn Val 120 Leu Val Val Asp Leu Gly Thr Ala Cys Thr Ile Phe Ala Val Ser Arg Gln Asp Gly Ile Leu Gly Gly Ile Ile Asn Ser Gly Pro Leu Ile Asn 155

Phe Asn Ser Leu Leu Asp Asn Ala Tyr Leu Ile Lys Lys Phe Pro Ile

- 16 **-**

165 170 175 Ser Thr Pro Asn Asn Leu Leu Glu Arg Thr Thr Ser Gly Ser Val Asn 185 Ser Gly Leu Phe Tyr Gln Tyr Lys Tyr Leu Ile Glu Gly Val Tyr Arg Asp Ile Lys Gln Met Tyr Lys Lys Phe Asn Leu Ile Ile Thr Gly Gly Asn Ala Asp Leu Ile Leu Ser Leu Ile Glu Ile Glu Phe Ile Phe Asn Ile His Leu Thr Val Glu Gly Val Arg Ile Leu Gly Asn Ser Ile 250 Asp Phe Lys Phe Val Asn 260 <210> 15 <211> 229 <212> PRT <213> Aquifex aeolicus <400> 15 Met Arg Phe Leu Thr Val Asp Val Gly Asn Ser Ser Val Asp Ile Ala Leu Trp Glu Gly Lys Lys Val Lys Asp Phe Leu Lys Leu Ser His Glu Glu Phe Leu Lys Glu Glu Phe Pro Lys Leu Lys Ala Leu Gly Ile Ser. Val Lys Gln Ser Phe Ser Glu Lys Val Arg Gly Lys Ile Pro Lys Ile Lys Phe Leu Lys Lys Glu Asn Phe Pro Ile Gln Val Asp Tyr Lys Thr Pro Glu Thr Leu Gly Thr Asp Arg Val Ala Leu Ala Tyr Ser Ala Lys 85 Lys Phe Tyr Gly Lys Asn Val Val Val Ile Ser Ala Gly Thr Ala Leu 105 Val Ile Asp Leu Val Leu Glu Gly Lys Phe Lys Gly Gly Phe Ile Thr 120 Leu Gly Leu Gly Lys Lys Leu Lys Ile Leu Ser Asp Leu Ala Glu Gly 135 Ile Pro Glu Phe Phe Pro Glu Glu Val Glu Ile Phe Leu Gly Arg Ser 150 155

Thr Arg Glu Cys Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Tyr Arg Glu Ser Thr Glu Phe

- 17 -

165 170 175 Ile Lys Ser Thr Leu Lys Leu Trp Arg Lys Val Phe Lys Arg Lys Phe 185 Lys Val Val Ile Thr Gly Gly Glu Gly Lys Tyr Phe Ser Lys Phe Gly Ile Tyr Asp Pro Leu Leu Val His Arg Gly Met Arg Asn Leu Leu Tyr 220 215 Leu Tyr His Arg Ile 225 <210> 16 <211> 257 <212> PRT <213> Synechocystis sp. Met Glu Thr Ser Lys Pro Gly Cys Gly Leu Ala Leu Asp Asn Asp Lys Gln Lys Pro Trp Leu Gly Leu Met Ile Gly Asn Ser Arg Leu His Trp Ala Tyr Cys Ser Gly Asn Ala Pro Leu Gln Thr Trp Val Thr Asp Tyr 40 Asn Pro Lys Ser Ala Gln Leu Pro Val Leu Leu Gly Lys Val Pro Leu Met Leu Ala Ser Val Val Pro Glu Gln Thr Glu Val Trp Arg Val Tyr Gln Pro Lys Ile Leu Thr Leu Lys Asn Leu Pro Leu Val Asn Leu Tyr Pro Ser Phe Gly Ile Asp Arg Ala Leu Ala Gly Leu Gly Thr Gly Leu Thr Tyr Gly Phe Pro Cys Leu Val Val Asp Gly Gly Thr Ala Leu Thr Ile Thr Gly Phe Asp Gln Asp Lys Leu Val Gly Gly Ala Ile Leu 135 Pro Gly Leu Gly Leu Gln Leu Ala Thr Leu Gly Asp Arg Leu Ala Ala 150 155 Leu Pro Lys Leu Glu Met Asp Gln Leu Thr Glu Leu Pro Asp Arg Trp 170 Ala Leu Asp Thr Pro Ser Ala Ile Phe Ser Gly Val Val Tyr Gly Val 190 180 185

Leu Gly Ala Leu Gln Ser Tyr Leu Gln Asp Trp Gln Lys Leu Phe Pro

- 18 -

195 200 205

Gly Ala Ala Met Val Ile Thr Gly Gly Asp Gly Lys Ile Leu His Gly 210 215 220

Phe Leu Lys Glu His Ser Pro Asn Leu Ser Val Ala Trp Asp Asp Asn 225 230 235 240

Leu Ile Phe Leu Gly Met Ala Ala Ile His His Gly Asp Arg Pro Ile 245 250 255

Cys

<210> 17

<211> 223

<212> PRT

<213> Helicobacter pylori

<400> 17

Met Pro Ala Arg Gln Ser Phe Thr Asp Leu Lys Asn Leu Val Leu Cys

1 10 15

Asp Ile Gly Asn Thr Arg Ile His Phe Ala Gln Asn Tyr Gln Leu Phe 20 25 30

Ser Ser Ala Lys Glu Asp Leu Lys Arg Leu Gly Ile Gln Lys Glu Ile 35 40 45

Phe Tyr Ile Ser Val Asn Glu Glu Asn Glu Lys Ala Leu Leu Asn Cys 50 55 . 60

Tyr Pro Asn Ala Lys Asn Ile Ala Gly Phe Phe His Leu Glu Thr Asp 65 70 75 80

Tyr Val Gly Leu Gly Ile Asp Arg Gln Met Ala Cys Leu Ala Val Asn 85 90 95

Asn Gly Val Val Asp Ala Gly Ser Ala Ile Thr Ile Asp Leu Ile 100 105 110

Lys Glu Gly Lys His Leu Gly Gly Cys Ile Leu Pro Gly Leu Ala Gln 115 120 125

Tyr Ile His Ala Tyr Lys Lys Ser Ala Lys Ile Leu Glu Gln Pro Phe 130 135 140

Lys Ala Leu Asp Ser Leu Glu Val Leu Pro Lys Ser Thr Arg Asp Ala 145 150 155 160

Val Asn Tyr Gly Met Val Leu Ser Val Ile Ala Cys Ile Gln His Leu 165 170 175

Ala Lys Asn Gln Lys Ile Tyr Leu Cys Gly Gly Asp Ala Lys Tyr Leu 180 185 190

Ser Ala Phe Leu Pro His Ser Val Cys Lys Glu Arg Leu Val Phe Asp

- 19 -

195 200 205

Gly Met Glu Ile Ala Leu Lys Lys Ala Gly Ile Leu Glu Cys Lys 210 215 220

<210> 18

<211> 267

<212> PRT

<213> Bordetella pertussis

<400> 18

Met Ile Ile Leu Ile Asp Ser Gly Asn Ser Arg Leu Lys Val Gly Trp $1 \hspace{1cm} 5 \hspace{1cm} 10 \hspace{1cm} 15$

Phe Asp Pro Asp Ala Pro Gln Ala Ala Arg Glu Pro Ala Pro Val Ala 20 25 30

Phe Asp Asn Leu Asp Leu Asp Ala Leu Gly Arg Trp Leu Ala Thr Leu 35 40 45

Pro Arg Arg Pro Gln Arg Ala Leu Gly Val Asn Val Ala Gly Leu Ala 50 55 60

Arg Gly Glu Ala Ile Ala Ala Thr Leu Arg Ala Gly Gly Cys Asp Ile 65 70 75 80

Arg Trp Leu Arg Ala Gln Pro Leu Ala Met Gly Leu Arg Asn Gly Tyr 85 90 95

Arg Asn Pro Asp Gln Leu Gly Ala Asp Arg Trp Ala Cys Met Val Gly 100 105 110

Val Leu Ala Arg Gln Pro Ser Val His Pro Pro Leu Leu Val Ala Ser 115 120 125

Phe Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Leu Asp Thr Ile Gly Pro Asp Asn Val Phe 130 135 140

Pro Gly Gly Leu Ile Leu Pro Gly Pro Ala Met Met Arg Gly Ala Leu 145 150 155 160

Ala Tyr Gly Thr Ala His Leu Pro Leu Ala Asp Gly Leu Val Ala Asp 165 170 175

Tyr Pro Ile Asp Thr His Gln Ala Ile Ala Ser Gly Ile Ala Ala Ala 180 185 190

Gln Ala Gly Ala Ile Val Arg Gln Trp Leu Ala Gly Arg Gln Arg Tyr 195 200 205

Gly Gln Ala Pro Glu Ile Tyr Val Ala Gly Gly Gly Trp Pro Glu Val 210 215 220

Arg Gln Glu Ala Glu Arg Leu Leu Ala Val Thr Gly Ala Ala Phe Gly 225 230 235 240

Ala Thr Pro Gln Pro Thr Tyr Leu Asp Ser Pro Val Leu Asp Gly Leu

- 20 -

245 250 255 Ala Ala Leu Ala Ala Gln Gly Ala Pro Thr Ala 260 <210> 19 <211> 777 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(774) <400> 19 ttg tta ctg gtt atc gat gtg ggg aac acc aat act gta ctt ggt gta 48 Leu Leu Val Ile Asp Val Gly Asn Thr Asn Thr Val Leu Gly Val tat cat gat gga aaa tta gaa tat cac tgg cgt ata gaa aca agc agg 96 Tyr His Asp Gly Lys Leu Glu Tyr His Trp Arg Ile Glu Thr Ser Arg 20 cat aaa aca gaa gat gag ttt ggg atg att ttg cgc tcc tta ttt gat 144 His Lys Thr Glu Asp Glu Phe Gly Met Ile Leu Arg Ser Leu Phe Asp 40 cac tcc ggg ctt atg ttt gaa cag ata gat ggc att att att tcg tca 192 His Ser Gly Leu Met Phe Glu Gln Ile Asp Gly Ile Ile Ile Ser Ser 55 gta gtg ccg cca atc atg ttt gcg tta gaa aga atg tgc aca aaa tac 240 Val Val Pro Pro Ile Met Phe Ala Leu Glu Arg Met Cys Thr Lys Tyr 65 ttt cat atc gag cct caa att gtt ggt cca ggt atg aaa acc ggt tta 288 Phe His Ile Glu Pro Gln Ile Val Gly Pro Gly Met Lys Thr. Gly Leu 85 aat ata aaa tat gac aat ccg aaa gaa gta ggg gca gac aga atc gta 336 Asn Ile Lys Tyr Asp Asn Pro Lys Glu Val Gly Ala Asp Arg Ile Val 100 aat gct gtc gct gcg ata cac ttg tac ggc aat cca tta att gtt gtc 384 Asn Ala Val Ala Ala Ile His Leu Tyr Gly Asn Pro Leu Ile Val Val 120 gat ttc gga acc gcc aca acg tac tgc tat att gat gaa aac aaa caa 432 . Asp Phe Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Tyr Cys Tyr Ile Asp Glu Asn Lys Gln 130 tac atg ggc ggg gcg att gcc cct ggg att aca att tcg aca gag gcg 480 Tyr Met Gly Gly Ala Ile Ala Pro Gly Ile Thr Ile Ser Thr Glu Ala 145 155 ctt tac teg egt gea gea aag ett eet egt ate gaa ate ace egg eee 528

Leu Tyr Ser Arg Ala Ala Lys Leu Pro Arg Ile Glu Ile Thr Arg Pro

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				165				170					175	
											caa Gln			576
				_			-			-	aag Lys 205	_	-	624
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					-	-	_		_		gtt Val	-		720
											aac Asn			768
agt Ser	gta Val	tag							,					777
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	.> CI	os L)	(957))										
gtg		aat									aca Thr			48
											att Ile			96
											tat Tyr 45			144
											ttg Leu			192
											aat Asn			240
											ggc Gly			288

- 22 **-**

85	90	95	
 • • •		atc ttg cag aag Ile Leu Gln Lys 110	-
 		ctt atc acg aca Leu Ile Thr Thr 125	_
 •	<i></i>	aaa aat atg atg Lys Asn Met Met 140	
 		gcg ctg ctc gaa Ala Leu Leu Glu	
		aag gcc ccg gtg Lys Ala Pro Val 175	
		ttc gag gtt gta Phe Glu Val Val 190	
		gtt ctt cag tcg Val Leu Gln Ser 205	
		ttt gtt tcc gat Phe Val Ser Asp 220	
		agc cgg att ttc Ser Arg Ile Phe	
 •		aca gct ttt caa Thr Ala Phe Gln 255	
		tcc gat cag gag Ser Asp Gln Glu 270	
		aac cgg ccg aat Asn Arg Pro Asn 285	
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Ile Phe Val Ser Asp Phe Phe Asp Phe Ser Ile Tyr Val Asp Ala Glu 195 200 205	624
gaa agc cgg att ttc act tgg tat tta gag cgt ttt cgc ctg ctt cgg Glu Ser Arg Ile Phe Thr Trp Tyr Leu Glu Arg Phe Arg Leu Leu Arg 210 215 220	672
gaa aca gct ttt caa aat cct gat tca tat ttt cat aaa ttt aaa gac Glu Thr Ala Phe Gln Asn Pro Asp Ser Tyr Phe His Lys Phe Lys Asp 225 230 235 240	720
ttg tcc gat cag gag gct gac gag atg gca gcc tcg att tgg gag agt Leu Ser Asp Glu Ala Asp Glu Met Ala Ala Ser Ile Trp Glu Ser 245 . 250 . 255	768
gtc aac cgg ccg aat tta tat gaa aat att ttg cca act aaa ttc agg Val Asn Arg Pro Asn Leu Tyr Glu Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr Lys Phe Arg 260 265 270 ·	816
tca gat ctc att ttg cgt aag gga gac ggg cat aag gtc gag gaa gtg Ser Asp Leu Ile Leu Arg Lys Gly Asp Gly His Lys Val Glu Glu Val 275 280 285	864
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<pre><212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)(843) <400> 22 gtg gaa gga ttg aat gat tat cta tct gtt gaa gaa gtg gag acg atc Met Glu Gly Leu Asn Asp Tyr Leu Ser Val Glu Glu Val Glu Thr Ile 1</pre>	
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- 25 -

65					70					75			80	
												ttt Phe		288
_		-		_			_	_		_		 ttt Phe 110	-	336
												tta Leu		384
	-	-	-	-	-	_	_					acc Thr		432
												att Ile		480
												gat Asp		528
												tcg Ser 190		576
												gag Glu		624
_	_			-		_					-	tat Tyr		672
												gca Ala		720
												att Ile		768
												ggg Gly 270		816
_		-		ttg Leu	-			-	tga					846

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											ggc Gly 220					672
	Thr										att Ile					720
											aga Arg					768
											aca Thr					816
			gga Gly					•								831
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	0> 2 Lys		Lys	Leu 5	Asp	P'ne	Leu	Lys	Met 10	Lys	Glu	Ser	Glu	Glu 15	Pro	
Ile	Val	Met	Leu 20	Thr	Ala	Tyr	Asp	Tyr 25	Pro	Ala	Ala	Lys	Leu 30	Ala	Glu	
Gln	Ala	Gly 35	Val	Asp	Met	Ile	Leu 40	Val	Gly	Asp	Ser	Leu 45	Gly	Met	Val	
Val	Leu 50	Gly	Leu	Asp	Ser	Thr 55	Val	Gly	Val	Thr	Val 60	Ala	Asp	Met	Ile	
His 65	His	Thr	Lys	Ala	Val 70	Lys	Arg	Gly	Ala	Pro 75	Asn	Thr	Phe	Ile	Val 80	
Thr	Asp	Met	Pro	Phe 85	Met	Ser	Tyr	His	Leu 90	Ser	Lys	Glu	Asp	Thr 95	Leu	
Lys	Asn	Ala	Ala 100	Ala	Ile	Val.	Gln	Glu 105	Ser	Gly	Ala	Asp	Ala 110	Leu	Lys	
Leu	Glu	Gly 115	Gly	Glu	Gly	Val	Phe 120	Glu	Ser	Ile	Arg	Ala 125	Leu	Thr	Leu	
Gly	Gly 130	Ile	Pro	Val	Val	Ser 135	His	Leu	Gly	Leu	Thr 140	Pro	Gln	Ser	Val	
Gly 145	Val	Leu	Gly	Gly	Tyr 150	Lys	Val	Gln	Gly	Lys 155	Asp	Glu	Gln	Ser	Ala 160	

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Lys Lys Leu Ile Glu Asp Ser Ile Lys Cys Glu Glu Ala Gly Ala Met Met Leu Val Leu Glu Cys Val Pro Ala Glu Leu Thr Ala Lys Ile Ala Glu Thr Leu Ser Ile Pro Val Ile Gly Ile Gly Ala Gly Val Lys Ala 200 Asp Gly Gln Val Leu Val Tyr His Asp Ile Ile Gly His Gly Val Glu Arg Thr Pro Lys Phe Val Lys Gln Tyr Thr Arg Ile Asp Glu Thr Ile 230 Glu Thr Ala Ile Ser Gly Tyr Val Gln Asp Val Arg His Arg Ala Phe Pro Glu Gln Lys His Ser Phe Gln Met Asn Gln Thr Val Leu Asp Gly Leu Tyr Gly Gly Lys 275 <210> 25 <211> 858 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(858) <400> 25 atg aga cag att act gat att tca cag ctg aaa gaa gcc ata aaa caa 48 Met Arg Gln Ile Thr Asp Ile Ser Gln Leu Lys Glu Ala Ile Lys Gln tac cat tca gag ggc aag tca atc gga ttt gtt ccg acg atg ggg ttt 96 Tyr His Ser Glu Gly Lys Ser Ile Gly Phe Val Pro Thr Met Gly Phe

Tyr His Ser Glu Gly Lys Ser Ile Gly Phe Val Pro Thr Met Gly Phe 20 25 30

ctg cat gag ggg cat tta acc tta gca gac aaa gca aga caa gaa aac 144

Leu His Glu Gly His Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Lys Ala Arg Gln Glu Asn 35 40 45

gac gcc gtt att atg agt att ttt gtg aat cct gca caa ttc ggc cct 192

Asp Ala Val Ile Met Ser Ile Phe Val Asn Pro Ala Gln Phe Gly Pro 50 55 60

aat gaa gat ttt gaa gca tat ccg cgc gat att gag cgg gat gca gct 240 Asn Glu Asp Phe Glu Ala Tyr Pro Arg Asp Ile Glu Arg Asp Ala Ala 65 70 75 80

ctt gca gaa aac gcc gga gtc gat att ctt ttt acg cca gat gct cat 288 Leu Ala Glu Asn Ala Gly Val Asp Ile Leu Phe Thr Pro Asp Ala His 85 90 95

	atg Met															336
	gac Asp			_		-		_	_				_		-	384
	atc Ile 130	_	_	-	•					-	-	-		_	•	432
	ttc Phe															480
	agc Ser	-			-	_		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	528
_	gag Glu	_	-			-		-		_		-				576
-	gag Glu	_	-		-			_	_			-				624
	gcg Ala 210															672
	gct Ala	_		-			-	_		-				-		720
-	gag Glu					_	_						_		_	768
	aag Lys	-			_	-	-	•	-					_		816
	gat Asp					_		_	_	_		-				858

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Met Arg Gln Ile Thr Asp Ile Ser Gln Leu Lys Glu Ala Ile Lys Gln 1 5 10 15

<211> 286

<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

- 30 -

Tyr His Ser Glu Gly Lys Ser Ile Gly Phe Val Pro Thr Met Gly Phe
20 25 30

Leu His Glu Gly His Leu Thr Leu Ala Asp Lys Ala Arg Gln Glu Asn 35 40 45

Asp Ala Val Ile Met Ser Ile Phe Val Asn Pro Ala Gln Phe Gly Pro 50 55 60

Aşn Glu Asp Phe Glu Ala Tyr Pro Arg Asp Ile Glu Arg Asp Ala Ala 65 70 75 80

Leu Ala Glu Asn Ala Gly Val Asp Ile Leu Phe Thr Pro Asp Ala His 85 90 95

Asp Met Tyr Pro Gly Glu Lys Asn Val Thr Ile His Val Glu Arg Arg 100 105 110

Thr Asp Val Leu Cys Gly Arg Ser Arg Glu Gly His Phe Asp Gly Val 115 120 125

Ala Ile Val Leu Thr Lys Leu Phe Asn Leu Val Lys Pro Thr Arg Ala 130 135 140

Tyr Phe Gly Leu Lys Asp Ala Gln Gln Val Ala Val Val Asp Gly Leu 145 150 155 160

Ile Ser Asp Phe Phe Met Asp Ile Glu Leu Val Pro Val Asp Thr Val 165 170 175

Arg Glu Glu Asp Gly Leu Ala Lys Ser Ser Arg Asn Val Tyr Leu Thr 180 185 190

Ala Glu Glu Arg Lys Glu Ala Pro Lys Leu Tyr Arg Ala Leu Gln Thr 195 200 205

Ser Ala Glu Leu Val Gln Ala Gly Glu Arg Asp Pro Glu Ala Val Ile 210 215 220

Lys Ala Ala Lys Asp Ile Ile Glu Thr Thr Ser Gly Thr Ile Asp Tyr 225 230 235 240

Val Glu Leu Tyr Ser Tyr Pro Glu Leu Glu Pro Val Asn Glu Ile Ala 245 250 255

Gly Lys Met Ile Leu Ala Val Ala Val Ala Phe Ser Lys Ala Arg Leu 260 265 270

Ile Asp Asn Ile Ile Ile Asp Ile Arg Glu Met Glu Arg Ile 275 280 285

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<212> DNA

<213> Bacillus subtilis

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70

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Glu Gly Asp Lys Val Ile Ile Ile Ser Tyr Lys Met Met Ser Asp Gln

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Glu Ala Ala Ser His Glu Pro Lys Val Ala Val Leu Asn Asp Gln Asn Lys Ile Glu Gln Met Leu Gly Asn Glu Pro Ala Arg Thr Ile Leu 120 <210> 29 <211> 894 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(894) atg aaa att gga att atc ggc gga ggc tcc gtt ggt ctt tta tgc gcc Met Lys Ile Gly Ile Ile Gly Gly Ser Val Gly Leu Leu Cys Ala 10 tat tat ttg tca ctt tat cac gac gtg act gtt gtg acg agg cgg caa 96 Tyr Tyr Leu Ser Leu Tyr His Asp Val Thr Val Val Thr Arg Arg Gln gaa cag get geg gee att cag tet gaa gga ate egg ett tat aaa gge 144 Glu Gln Ala Ala Ile Gln Ser Glu Gly Ile Arg Leu Tyr Lys Gly ggg gag gaa ttc agg gct gat tgc agt gcg gac acg agt atc aat tcg 192 Gly Glu Glu Phe Arg Ala Asp Cys Ser Ala Asp Thr Ser Ile Asn Ser 55 240 gac ttt gac ctg ctt gtc gtg aca gtg aag cag cat cag ctt caa tct Asp Phe Asp Leu Leu Val Val Thr Val Lys Gln His Gln Leu Gln Ser gtt ttt tcg tcg ctt gaa cga atc ggg aag acg aat ata tta ttt ttg 288 Val Phe Ser Ser Leu Glu Arg Ile Gly Lys Thr Asn Ile Leu Phe Leu caa aac ggc atg ggg cat atc cac gac cta aaa gac tgg cac gtt ggc Gln Asn Gly Met Gly His Ile His Asp Leu Lys Asp Trp His Val Gly 100 105 cat tcc att tat gtt gga atc gtt gag cac gga gct gta aga aaa tcg 384 His Ser Ile Tyr Val Gly Ile Val Glu His Gly Ala Val Arg Lys Ser 115 120 gat aca gct gtt gat cat aca ggc cta ggt gcg ata aaa tgg agc gcg 432 Asp Thr Ala Val Asp His Thr Gly Leu Gly Ala Ile Lys Trp Ser Ala 130 135 140 480 ttc gac gat gct gaa cca gac cgg ctg aac atc ttg ttt cag cat aac

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Phe 145	Asp	Asp	Ala	Glu	Pro 150	Asp	Arg	Leu	Asn	Ile 155	Leu	Phe	Gln	His	Asn 160	
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-		-	_		-			-		aat Asn						576
										acg Thr						624
										cgc Arg						672
										gcc Ala 235						720
			-			_	_	Val	_	gtc Val					-	768
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										tta Leu						864
-	-	gag Glu	-													894
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Tyr	Tyr	Leu	Ser 20	Leu	Tyr	His	Asp	Val 25	Thr	Val	Val	Thr	Arg 30	Arg	Gln	
Glu	Gln	Ala 35	Ala	Ala	Ile	Gln	Ser 40	Glu	Gly	Ile	Arg	Leu 45	Tyr	Lys	Gly	
Gly	Glu 50	Glu	Phe	Arg	Ala	Asp 55	Cys	Ser	Ala	Asp	Thr 60	Ser	Ile	Asn	Ser	

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Asp Phe Asp Leu Leu Val Val Thr Val Lys Gln His Gln Leu Gln Ser 65 70 75 80

Val Phe Ser Ser Leu Glu Arg Ile Gly Lys Thr Asn Ile Leu Phe Leu 85 90 95

Gln Asn Gly Met Gly His Ile His Asp Leu Lys Asp Trp His Val Gly
100 105 110

His Ser Ile Tyr Val Gly Ile Val Glu His Gly Ala Val Arg Lys Ser 115 120 125

Asp Thr Ala Val Asp His Thr Gly Leu Gly Ala Ile Lys Trp Ser Ala 130 135 140

Phe Asp Asp Ala Glu Pro Asp Arg Leu Asn Ile Leu Phe Gln His Asn 145 150 155 160

His Ser Asp Phe Pro Ile Tyr Tyr Glu Thr Asp Trp Tyr Arg Leu Leu 165 170 175

Thr Gly Lys Leu Ile Val Asn Ala Cys Ile Asn Pro Leu Thr Ala Leu 180 185 190

Leu Gln Val Lys Asn Gly Glu Leu Leu Thr Thr Pro Ala Tyr Leu Ala 195 200 205

Phe Met Lys Leu Val Phe Gln Glu Ala Cys Arg Ile Leu Lys Leu Glu 210 . 220

Asn Glu Glu Lys Ala Trp Glu Arg Val Gln Ala Val Cys Gly Gln Thr 225 230 235 240

Lys Glu Asn Arg Ser Ser Met Leu Val Asp Val Ile Gly Gly Arg Gln 245 250 255

Thr Glu Ala Asp Ala Ile Ile Gly Tyr Leu Leu Lys Glu Ala Ser Leu 260 265 270

Gln Gly Leu Asp Ala Val His Leu Glu Phe Leu Tyr Gly Ser Ile Lys 275 280 285

Ala Leu Glu Arg Asn Thr Asn Lys Val Phe

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<211> 1725

<212> DNA

<213> Bacillus subtilis

<220>

<221> CDS

<222> (1)..(1722)

<400> 31

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-	-	-		_		-	-		gaa Glu							96
_	-	_					_		G] À daa	_			-			144
-	_						_	-	cat His				_		-	192
		_			-				tåc Tyr	_		_				240
									ccg Pro 90							288
			-	-	-	_		-	tca Ser	_	_		-	-		336
		-	-	-			_		ggg Gly	-	-	_		_	-	384
									gta 'Val							432
-	_	-	_	-	-	_	_	_	atc Ile			-				480
									gta Val 170							528
									agc Ser							576
									ccg Pro							624
									aaa Lys							672
									tca Ser							720

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				caa Gln 245												768
				gac Asp												816
				gcc Ala												864
				cgt Arg												912
	-	_		gca Ala	_		-			-		_		_	-	960
				atg Met 325												1008
				gag Glu												1056
				aaa Lys												1104
		-	_	aat Asn	_	-	•					_		_		1152
				caa Gln												1200
		Gln	His	caa Gln 405	Met	Trp	Ser	Ala	Gln	Phe	Tyr	Pro			Lys	1248
				gtc Val												1296
				atc Ile												1344
gtc Val	gcg Ala 450	gtt Val	gtc Val	gga Gly	gac Asp	ggc Gly 455	gga Gly	ttc Phe	caa Gln	atg Met	acg Thr 460	ctt Leu	caa Gln	gaa Glu	ctc Leu	1392
gat Asp	gtt Val	att Ile	cgc Arg	gaa Glu	tta Leu	aat Asn	ctt Leu	ccg Pro	gtc Val	aag Lys	gta Val	gtg Val	att Ile	tta Leu	aat Asn	1440

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465	470	475	480
		cag gaa att ttc ta Gln Glu Ile Phe Ty 499	Glu
		cag cct gac ttc gtc Gln Pro Asp Phe Val 510	
		aga att tca tca gaa Arg Ile Ser Ser Glu 525	
		aca tca aga gaa cct Thr Ser Arg Glu Pro 540	
		aaa gta ttc ccg atg Lys Val Phe Pro Met 555	
gct ccg ggg aaa ggg Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly 565			1725
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<213> Bacillus subt <400> 32 Met Gly Thr Asn Val	Gln Val Asp Ser Ala 10 Leu Met Leu Ile Glu 25 Gly Tyr Pro Gly Gly 40 Ser Gly Leu Val His	Ser Leu Lys Lys Glu 30 Ala Val Leu Pro Ile 45	Lys Tyr Glu
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<pre><213> Bacillus subt <400> 32 Met Gly Thr Asn Val</pre>	Gln Val Asp Ser Ala 10 Leu Met Leu Ile Glu 25 Gly Tyr Pro Gly Gly 40 Ser Gly Leu Val His 55 Ala Ala Glu Gly Tyr 70 Ala Thr Ser Gly Pro 90	Ser Leu Lys Lys Glu 30 Ala Val Leu Pro Ile 45 Ile Leu Pro Arg His 60 Ala Arg Val Ser Gly 75 Gly Ala Thr Asn Leu	Lys Tyr Glu Lys 80 Val
<pre><213> Bacillus subt <400> 32 Met Gly Thr Asn Val 1</pre>	Gln Val Asp Ser Ala 10 Leu Met Leu Ile Glu 25 Gly Tyr Pro Gly Gly 40 Ser Gly Leu Val His 55 Ala Ala Glu Gly Tyr 70 Ala Thr Ser Gly Pro 90 Ala Met Ile Asp Ser	Ser Leu Lys Lys Glu 30 Ala Val Leu Pro Ile 45 Ile Leu Pro Arg His 60 Ala Arg Val Ser Gly 75 Gly Ala Thr Asn Leu 95 Leu Pro Leu Val Val	Lys Tyr Glu Lys 80 Val

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	130					135					140				
Val 145	Arg	Gln	Pro	Glu	Asp 150	Leu	Pro	Arg	Ile	Ile 155	Lys	Glu	Ala	Phe	His 160
Ile	Ala	Thr	Thr	Gly 165	Arg	Pro	Gly	Pro	Val 170	Leu	Ile	Asp	Ile	Pro 175	Lys
Asp	Val	Ala	Thr 180	Ile	Glu	Gly	Glu	Phe 185	Ser	Tyr	Asp	His	Glu 190	Met	Asn
Leu	Pro	Gly 195	Tyr	Gln	Pro	Thr	Thr 200	Glu	Pro	Asn	Tyr	Leu 205	Gln	Ile	Arg
Lys	Leu 210	Val	Glu	Ala	Val	Ser 215	Ser	Ala	Lys	Lys	Pro 220	Val	Ile	Leu	Ala
Gly 225	Ala	Gly	Val	Leu	His 230	Gly	Lys	Ala	Ser	Glu 235	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asn	Tyr 240
Ala	Glu	Gln	Gln	Gln 245	Ile	Pro	Val	Ala	H i s 250	Thr	Leu	Leu	Gly	Leu 255	Gly
Gly	Phe	Pro	Ala 260	Asp	His	Pro	Leu	Phe 265	Leu	Gly	Met	Ala	Gly 270	Met	His
Gly	Thr	Tyr 275	Thr	Ala	Asn	Met	Ala 280	Leu	His	Glu	Cys	Asp 285	Leu	Leu	Ile
Ser	Ile 290	Gly	Ala	Arg	Phe	Asp 295	Asp	Arg	Val	Thr	Gly 300	Asn	Leu	Lys	His
Phe 305	Ala	Arg	Asn	Ala	Lys 310	Ile	Ala	His	Ile	Asp 315	Ile	Asp	Pro	Ala	Glu 320
Ile	Gly	Lys	Ile	Met 325	Lys	Thr	Gln	Ile	Pro 330	Val	Val	Gly	Asp	Ser 335	Lys
Ile	Val	Leu	Gln 340	Glu	Leu	Ile	Lys	Gln 345	Asp	Gly	Lys	Gln	Ser 350	Asp	Ser
Ser	Glu	Trp 355	Lys ·	Lys	Gln	Leu	Ala 360	Glu	Trp	Lys	Glu	Glu 365	Tyr	Pro	Leu
Trp	Tyr 370	Val	Asp	Asn	Glu	Glu 375	Glu	Gly	Phe	Lys	Pro 380	Gln	Lys	Leu	Ile
Glu 385	Tyr	Ile	His	Gln	Phe 390	Thr	Lys	Gly	Glu	Ala 395	Ile	Val	Ala	Thr	Asp 400
Val	Gly	Gln	His	Gln 405	Met	Trp	Ser	Ala	Gln 410	Phe	Tyr	Pro	Phe	Gln 415	Lys
Ala	Asp	Lys	Trp 420	Val	Thr	Ser	Gly	Gly 425	Leu	Gly	Thr	Met	Gly 430	Phe	Gly
Leu	Pro	Ala 435	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ala	Gln 440	Leu	Ala	Glu	Lys	Asp	Ala	Thr	Val

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Val Ala Val Val Gly Asp Gly Phe Gln Met Thr Leu Gln Glu Leu 450 Asp Val Ile Arg Glu Leu Asn Leu Pro Val Lys Val Val Ile Leu Asn 475 Asn Ala Cys Leu Gly Met Val Arg Gln Trp Gln Glu Ile Phe Tyr Glu Glu Arg Tyr Ser Glu Ser Lys Phe Ala Ser Gln Pro Asp Phe Val Lys Leu Ser Glu Ala Tyr Gly Ile Lys Gly Ile Arg Ile Ser Ser Glu Ala 520 Glu Ala Lys Glu Lys Leu Glu Glu Ala Leu Thr Ser Arg Glu Pro Val 535 Val Ile Asp Val Arg Val Ala Ser Glu Glu Lys Val Phe Pro Met Val 550 555 Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Leu His Glu Met Val Gly Val Lys Pro <210> 33 <211> 525 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(522) <400> 33 ttg aaa aga att atc aca ttg act gtg gtg aac cgc tcc ggg gtg tta 48 Met Lys Arg Ile Ile Thr Leu Thr Val Val Asn Arg Ser Gly Val Leu aac egg ate ace ggt eta tte aca aaa agg eat tae aac att gaa age Asn Arg Ile Thr Gly Leu Phe Thr Lys Arg His Tyr Asn Ile Glu Ser 20 att aca gtt gga cac aca gaa aca gcc ggc gtt tcc aga atc acc ttc Ile Thr Val Gly His Thr Glu Thr Ala Gly Val Ser Arg Ile Thr Phe 40 gtc gtt cat gtt gaa ggt gaa aat gat gtt gaa cag tta acg aaa cag 192 Val Val His Val Glu Gly Glu Asn Asp Val Glu Gln Leu Thr Lys Gln ctc aac aaa cag att gat gtg ctg aaa gtc aca gac atc aca aat caa 240 Leu Asn Lys Gln Ile Asp Val Leu Lys Val Thr Asp Ile Thr Asn Gln tcg att gtc cag agg gag ctg gcc tta atc aag gtt gtc tcc gca cct 288 Ser Ile Val Gln Arg Glu Leu Ala Leu Ile Lys Val Val Ser Ala Pro

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85 90 95 tca aca aga aca gag att aat gga atc ata gaa ccg ttt aga gcc tct Ser Thr Arg Thr Glu Ile Asn Gly Ile Ile Glu Pro Phe Arg Ala Ser 105 gtc gtt gat gtc agc aga gac agc atc gtt gtt cag gtg aca ggt gaa 384 Val Val Asp Val Ser Arg Asp Ser Ile Val Val Gln Val Thr Gly Glu 120 125 tct aac aaa att gaa gcg ctt att gag tta tta aaa cct tat ggc att 432 Ser Asn Lys Ile Glu Ala Leu Ile Glu Leu Leu Lys Pro Tyr Gly Ile 135 aaa gaa atc gcg aga aca ggt aca acg gct ttt gcg agg gga acc agc 480 Lys Glu Ile Ala Arg Thr Gly Thr Thr Ala Phe Ala Arg Gly Thr Ser 155 aaa agg cgt cat cca ata aaa caa tat cta ttg tat aaa aca taa 525 Lys Arg Arg His Pro Ile Lys Gln Tyr Leu Leu Tyr Lys Thr 165 170 <210> 34 <211> 174 <212> PRT <213> Bacillus subtilis <400> 34 Met Lys Arg Ile Ile Thr Leu Thr Val Val Asn Arg Ser Gly Val Leu Asn Arg Ile Thr Gly Leu Phe Thr Lys Arg His Tyr Asn Ile Glu Ser 20 25 Ile Thr Val Gly His Thr Glu Thr Ala Gly Val Ser Arg Ile Thr Phe Val Val His Val Glu Gly Glu Asn Asp Val Glu Gln Leu Thr Lys Gln Leu Asn Lys Gln Ile Asp Val Leu Lys Val Thr Asp Ile Thr Asn Gln Ser Ile Val Gln Arg Glu Leu Ala Leu Ile Lys Val Val Ser Ala Pro Ser Thr Arg Thr Glu Ile Asn Gly Ile Ile Glu Pro Phe Arg Ala Ser Val Val Asp Val Ser Arg Asp Ser Ile Val Val Gln Val Thr Gly Glu 115 Ser Asn Lys Ile Glu Ala Leu Ile Glu Leu Leu Lys Pro Tyr Gly Ile 135 Lys Glu Ile Ala Arg Thr Gly Thr Thr Ala Phe Ala Arg Gly Thr Ser 145 150 155

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Lys Arg Arg His Pro Ile Lys Gln Tyr Leu Leu Tyr Lys Thr 165

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ggc Gly	gta Val	tta Leu	gaa Glu 180	acg Thr	aca Thr	ttt Phe	aaa Lys	gaa Glu 185	gaa Glu	aca Thr	gaa Glu	aca Thr	gat Asp 190	ttg Leu	ttc . Phe	576
													gtc Val			624
													ctt Leu			672
ttc Phe 225	gag Glu	tgt Cys	ctt Leu	cat His	gag Glu 230	ctg Leu	aaa Lys	tta Leu	atc Ile	gta Val 235	gac Asp	ctt Leu	atg Met	tac Tyr	gaa Glu 240	720
													gca Ala			768
													gta Val 270			816
													ttc Phe			864
gag Glu	tgg Trp 290	atc Ile	gtc Val	gaa Glu	aac Asn	caa Gln 295	gta Val	aac Asn	cgt Arg	cct Pro	cgt Arg 300	ttc Phe	aac Asn	gct Ala	atc	912
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													gaa Glu			1008
_		_	gcg Ala 340			taa										1029
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	> 36 Val		Val	Tyr 5	Tyr	Asn	Gly	Asp	Ile 10	Lys	Glu	Asn	Val	Leu 15	Ala	

Gly Lys Thr Val Ala Val Ile Gly Tyr Gly Ser Gln Gly His Ala His 20 25 30

Ala Leu Asn Leu Lys Glu Ser Gly Val Asp Val Ile Val Gly Val Arg
35

Gln Gly Lys Ser Phe Thr Gln Ala Gln Glu Asp Gly His Lys Val Phe
50

Ser Val Lys Glu Ala Ala Ala Gln Ala Glu Ile Ile Met Val Leu Leu 65 70 75 80

Pro Asp Glu Gln Gln Gln Lys Val Tyr Glu Ala Glu Ile Lys Asp Glu 85 90 95

Leu Thr Ala Gly Lys Ser Leu Val Phe Ala His Gly Phe Asn Val His 100 105 110

Phe His Gln Ile Val Pro Pro Ala Asp Val Asp Val Phe Leu Val Ala 115 . 120 . 125

Pro Lys Gly Pro Gly His Leu Val Arg Arg Thr Tyr Glu Gln Gly Ala 130 135 140

Gly Val Pro Ala Leu Phe Ala Ile Tyr Gln Asp Val Thr Gly Glu Ala 145 150 155 160

Arg Asp Lys Ala Leu Ala Tyr Ala Lys Gly Ile Gly Gly Ala Arg Ala 165 170 175

Gly Val Leu Glu Thr Thr Phe Lys Glu Glu Thr Glu Thr Asp Leu Phe 180 185 190

Gly Glu Gln Ala Val Leu Cys Gly Gly Leu Ser Ala Leu Val Lys Ala 195 200 205

Gly Phe Glu Thr Leu Thr Glu Ala Gly Tyr Gln Pro Glu Leu Ala Tyr 210 215 220

Phe Glu Cys Leu His Glu Leu Lys Leu Ile Val Asp Leu Met Tyr Glu 225 230 235 240

Glu Gly Leu Ala Gly Met Arg Tyr Ser Ile Ser Asp Thr Ala Gln Trp
245 250 255

Gly Asp Phe Val Ser Gly Pro Arg Val Val Asp Ala Lys Val Lys Glu 260 265 270

Ser Met Lys Glu Val Leu Lys Asp Ile Gln Asn Gly Thr Phe Ala Lys 275 280 285

Glu Trp Ile Val Glu Asn Gln Val Asn Arg Pro Arg Phe Asn Ala Ile 290 295 3.00

Asn Ala Ser Glu Asn Glu His Gln Ile Glu Val Val Gly Arg Lys Leu 305 310 315 320

Arg Glu Met Met Pro Phe Val Lys Gln Gly Lys Lys Lys Glu Ala Val 325 330 335

Val Ser Val Ala Gln Asn

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340

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Asn Glu	Asn Glu 180		Gln Glu	ı Leu	Glu 185	Gln	Phe	Gly	Cys	Pro 190	Thr	Cys	
ggg tct Gly Ser													624
gaa gca Glu Ala 210		-		Pro						_	-		672
tct ccg Ser Pro 225	-	Lys G			-		-	-	-			_	720
gaa acg Glu Thr													768
gcg att Ala Ile		Ala P											816
aat acc Asn Thr	_			-		-		_	-		_	-	864
tac tct Tyr Ser 290	_	-		Glu	-	_		_		_		_	912
gct aag Ala Lys 305		Pro A	_	_				_	-			_	960
gcg ggc Ala Gly		_		_		-		•	-		-		1008
gcg ctt Ala Leu					-							-	1056
acc att Thr Ile													1104
gat caa Asp Gln 370		_	_	Gly			_	_					1152
cta gct Leu Ala 385		Gly A							-	_			1200
att aca Ile Thr													1248

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	ctt Leu	-					_		_		-		-	-	-	1296
	atc Ile	-		-								_	-	-	-	1344
	gcg Ala 450															1392
	ttg Leu															1440
	ggc Gly		-				-	-				_		-		1488
	gaa Glu															1536
	gta Val															1584
	ggt Gly 530		_	-							-	_	_			1632
	ctt Leu			-	-						-					1674
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Met 1	Ala	GIU	ьeu	Arg 5	ser	Asn	мет	116	10	GTU	GIÀ	116	Asp	15	АІА	
Pro	His	Arg	Ser 20	Leu	Leu	Arg	Ala	Ala 25	Gly	Val	Lys	Glu	Glu 30	Asp	Phe	
Gly	Lys	Pro 35	Phe	Ile	Ala	Val	Cys 40	Asn	Ser	Tyr	Ile	Asp 45	Ile	Val	Pro	
Gly	His 50	Val	His	Leu	Gln	Glu 55	Phe	Gly	Lys	Ile	Val 60	Lys	Glu	Ala	Ile	
Arg 65	Glu	Ala	Gly	Gly	Val 70	Pro	Phe	Glu	Phe	Asn 75	Thr	Ile	Gly	Val	Asp 80	

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Asp Gly Ile Ala Met Gly His Ile Gly Met Arg Tyr Ser Leu Pro Ser 90 Arg Glu Ile Ile Ala Asp Ser Val Glu Thr Val Val Ser Ala His Trp 105 Phe Asp Gly Met Val Cys Ile Pro Asn Cys Asp Lys Ile Thr Pro Gly 120 Met Leu Met Ala Ala Met Arg Ile Asn Ile Pro Thr Ile Phe Val Ser Gly Gly Pro Met Ala Ala Gly Arg Thr Ser Tyr Gly Arg Lys Ile Ser Leu Ser Ser Val Phe Glu Gly Val Gly Ala Tyr Gln Ala Gly Lys Ile 165 170 Asn Glu Asn Glu Leu Gln Glu Leu Glu Gln Phe Gly Cys Pro Thr Cys 180 185 Gly Ser Cys Ser Gly Met Phe Thr Ala Asn Ser Met Asn Cys Leu Ser 200 Glu Ala Leu Gly Leu Ala Leu Pro Gly Asn Gly Thr Ile Leu Ala Thr Ser Pro Glu Arg Lys Glu Phe Val Arg Lys Ser Ala Ala Gln Leu Met Glu Thr Ile Arg Lys Asp Ile Lys Pro Arg Asp Ile Val Thr Val Lys Ala Ile Asp Asn Ala Phe Ala Leu Asp Met Ala Leu Gly Gly Ser Thr Asn Thr Val Leu His Thr Leu Ala Leu Ala Asn Glu Ala Gly Val Glu 280 Tyr Ser Leu Glu Arg Ile Asn Glu Val Ala Glu Arg Val Pro His Leu 295 300 Ala Lys Leu Ala Pro Ala Ser Asp Val Phe Ile Glu Asp Leu His Glu 31.5 Ala Gly Gly Val Ser Ala Ala Leu Asn Glu Leu Ser Lys Lys Glu Gly 325 330 Ala Leu His Leu Asp Ala Leu Thr Val Thr Gly Lys Thr Leu Gly Glu Thr Ile Ala Gly His Glu Val Lys Asp Tyr Asp Val Ile His Pro Leu 360

Asp Gln Pro Phe Thr Glu Lys Gly Gly Leu Ala Val Leu Phe Gly Asn

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Leu Ala Pro Asp Gly Ala Ile Ile Lys Thr Gly Gly Val Gln Asn Gly Ile Thr Arg His Glu Gly Pro Ala Val Val Phe Asp Ser Gln Asp Glu 405 Ala Leu Asp Gly Ile Ile Asn Arg Lys Val Lys Glu Gly Asp Val Val Ile Ile Arg Tyr Glu Gly Pro Lys Gly Gly Pro Gly Met Pro Glu Met Leu Ala Pro Thr Ser Gln Ile Val Gly Met Gly Leu Gly Pro Lys Val Ala Leu Ile Thr Asp Gly Arg Phe Ser Gly Ala Ser Arg Gly Leu Ser 470 475 Ile Gly His Val Ser Pro Glu Ala Ala Glu Gly Gly Pro Leu Ala Phe 490 Val Glu Asn Gly Asp His Ile Ile Val Asp Ile Glu Lys Arg Ile Leu Asp Val Gln Val Pro Glu Glu Glu Trp Glu Lys Arg Lys Ala Asn Trp 520 Lys Gly Phe Glu Pro Lys Val Lys Thr Gly Tyr Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ser Lys Leu Val Thr Ser Ala Asn Thr Gly Gly Ile Met Lys Ile <210> 39 <211> 194 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence:promoter sequence <220> <221> -35 signal <222> (136)..(141) <220> <221> -10 signal <222> (159)..(164) <400> 39 gctattgacg acagctatgg ttcactgtcc accaaccaaa actgtgctca gtaccgccaa 60 tatttctccc ttgaggggta caaagaggtg tccctagaag agatccacgc tgtgtaaaaa 120

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gcaaccccgc ctgt
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<220>
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      sequence
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<220>
<221> -10_signal
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aatttaaatt ttatttgaca aaaatgggct cgtgttgtac aataaatgta gtgaggtgga 120
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	<210> 46 <211> 23 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence	
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b	i	n	d	i	n	α	s	i	t	e
~	-		v	٠,		ч	_	-	•	•

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<220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence:ribosome binding site	
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- 52 -

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- 53 -

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cttcatgaat gtgatctatt aatcagtatc ggcgcccgtt ttgatgaccg tgtcacagga 900 aacctgaaac actttgccag aaacgcaaag atagcccaca tcgatattga tccagctgaa 960 atcggaaaaa tcatgaaaac acagattcct gtagtcggag acagcaaaat tgtcctgcag 1020 gagetgatea aacaagaegg caaacaaage gatteaageg aatggaaaaa acagetegea 1080 qaatggaaag aagagtatcc gctctggtat gtagataatg aagaagaagg ttttaaacct 1140 cagaaattga ttgaatatat tcatcaattt acaaaaggag aggccattgt cgcaacggat 1200 gtaggccagc atcaaatgtg gtcagcgcaa ttttatccgt tccaaaaagc agataaatgg 1260 gtcacgtcag gcggacttgg aacgatggga ttcggtcttc cggcggcgat cggcgcacag 1320 ctggccgaaa aagatgctac tgttgtcgcg gttgtcggag acggcggatt ccaaatgacg 1380 cttcaagaac tcgatgttat tcgcgaatta aatcttccgg tcaaggtagt gattttaaat 1440 aacgcttgtc tcggaatggt cagacagtgg caggaaattt tctatgaaga acgttattca 1500 gaatctaaat tegettetea geetgaette gteaaattgt eegaageata eggeattaaa 1560 ggcatcagaa tttcatcaga agcggaagca aaggaaaagc tggaagaggc attaacatca 1620 agagaacetg ttgtcattga cgtgcgggtt gccagcgaag aaaaagtatt cccgatggtg 1680 gctccgggga aagggctgca tgaaatggtg ggggtgaaac cttgaaaaga attatcacat 1740 tgactgtggt gaaccgctcc ggggtgttaa accggatcac cggtctattc acaaaaaggc 1800 attacaacat tgaaagcatt acagttggac acacagaaac agccggcgtt tccagaatca 1860 ccttcqtcqt tcatqttqaa qqtqaaaatq atqttqaaca qttaacqaaa cagctcaaca 1920 aacagattga tgtgctgaaa gtcacagaca tcacaaatca atcgattgtc cagagggagc 1980 tggccttaat caaggttgtc tccgcacctt caacaagaac agagattaat ggaatcatag 2040 aaccgtttag agcctctgtc gttgatgtca gcagagacag catcgttgtt caggtgacag 2100 gtgaatctaa caaaattgaa gcgcttattg agttattaaa accttatggc attaaagaaa 2160 tegegagaac aggtacaacg gettttgega ggggaaceag caaaaggegt cateeaataa 2220 aacaatatct attgtataaa acataacaag ggagagattg aaatggtaaa agtatattat 2280 aacggtgata tcaaagagaa cgtattggct ggaaaaacag tagcggttat cgggtacggt 2340 tegeaaggee aegeacatge eetgaacett aaagaaageg gagtagaegt gategteggt 2400 gttagacaag gaaaatcttt cactcaagcc caagaagacg gacataaagt attttcagta 2460 aaagaagcgg cagcccaagc cgaaatcatc atggttctgc ttccggatga gcagcagcaa 2520 aaagtatacg aagctgaaat caaagatgaa ttgacagcag gaaaatcatt agtattcgct 2580

catggattta acgtgcattt ccatcaaatt gttcctccgg cggatgtaga tgtattctta 2640 gtggccccta aaggcccggg acacttggta agaagaacat atgagcaagg agctggcgta 2700 cctgcattgt tcgcaatcta tcaagatgtg actggagaag caagagcaa agccctcgct 2760 tatgctaaag gaatcggcgg cgcaagagcg ggcgtattag aaacgacatt taaagaagaa 2820 acagaaacag atttgttcgg tgagcaagca gttctttgcg gcggattaag cgcgcttgtc 2880 aaagccggat ttgaaacctt aactgaagca ggttatcagc ctgaacttgc atacttcgag 2940 tgtcttcatg agctgaaatt aatcgtagac cttatgtacg aagaaggact tgcaggaatg 3000 agatattcaa tctctgacac agcacagtgg ggagatttcg tatcaggccc tcgcgttgtg 3060 gacgccaaag taaaagaatc tatgaaagaa gtattaaaag atatccaaaa cggtacattc 3120 gcaaaagag ggatcgtcga aaaccaagta aaccgtcctc gtttcaacgc tatcaatgca 3180 agcgagaacg aacatcaaat cgaagtagtg ggaagaaagc ttcgtgaaat gatgccgttt 3240 gtgaaacaag gcaagaagaa ggaagcggtg gtctccgttg cgcaaaatta a 3291

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att gtc atg ctg acc gct tat gat tat ccg gca gct aaa ctt gct gaa Ile Val Met Leu Thr Ala Tyr Asp Tyr Pro Ala Ala Lys Leu Ala Glu 337

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		20					25					30			
												gga Gly			385
												gac Asp			433
												ttt Phe			481
												gat Asp			529
	_		-		-	_	-	-		•	_	gca Ala 110	•	-	577
	 		_				-			_	-	ttg Leu	_		625
			-	-	-				-		-	cag Gln		-	673
												caa Gln			721
			-	-	_			_	-	-	-	gga Gly	_	-	769
												aaa Lys 190			817
												gtg Val			865
												ggt Gly			913
-				_	-			_	-		-	gaa Glu			961
												cgt Arg			1009

					tcc Ser										1057
				aaa Lys	taa				n Il				r Gl	g ctg n Leu	1106
					caa Gln										1154
-	_	_	-		ttt Phe	_							_	-	1202
					aac Asn 325										1250
					cct Pro		-	-		-	_	_	-	-	1298
					gct Ala										1346
					cat His										1394
					cgc Arg										1442
					gtc Val 405										1490
					gcc Ala										1538
					tta Leu										1586
					gtc Val										1634
					aca Thr										1682
					aca Thr										1730

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480	485	490	495
Asp Pro Glu Ala V		gca aaa gat atc att ga Ala Lys Asp Ile Ile Gl 505	
	sp Tyr Val Glu L	ctt tat tcc tat ccg ga Leu Tyr Ser Tyr Pro Gl 520 52	ı Leu Glu
		atg att ctc gct gtt gc Met Ile Leu Ala Val Ala 540	
		aat atc att att gat at Asn Ile Ile Ile Asp Ile 555	
atg gag aga ata t Met Glu Arg Ile 560		aca atg atg agc ggc at Thr Met Met Ser Gly Ly 570	
		etg aac tat gtg gga agd Leu Asn Tyr Val Gly Ser 585	
Ile Asp Glu Asp L		gtg gga atg ott oot aat 7al Gly Met Leu Pro Asi 600	_
	n Asn Asn Asn G	gga gca cgt ctt gaa acg Bly Ala Arg Leu Glu Thi B15 620	Tyr Ile
att cct ggt aaa c Ile Pro Gly Lys A 625	g gga agc ggc g g Gly Ser Gly V 630	tc ata tgc tta aac ggt al Ile Cys Leu Asn Gly 635	gca gcc 2163 / Ala Ala
		ag gtc att att att tcc ys Val Ile Ile Ile Sen 650	
		gc cat gag ccg aaa gto er His Glu Pro Lys Val 665	
	n Lys Ile Glu G	aa atg ctg ggg aac gaa In Met Leu Gly Asn Glu 680	
cgt aca att ttg ta Arg Thr Ile Leu 690	gaagaaaa gccccc	ttta tegggggttt tetttt	aaga tttt 2363

<210> 60 <211> 293 <212> PRT

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WO 01/21772 PCT/US00/25993

<213> Bacillus subtilis

<400> 60

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1 10 15

Asn Asp Tyr Leu Ser Val Glu Glu Val Glu Thr Ile Tyr Ile Pro Leu 20 25 30

Val Arg Leu His Leu His Val Lys Ser Ala Ala Glu Arg Asn Lys 35 40 45

His Val Asn Val Phe Leu Lys His Pro His Ser Ala Lys Ile Pro Phe 50 55 60

Ile Ile Gly Ile Ala Gly Ser Val Ala Val Gly Lys Ser Thr Thr Ala 65 70 75 80

Årg Ile Leu Gln Lys Leu Ser Arg Leu Pro Asp Arg Pro Lys Val 85 90 95

Ser Leu Ile Thr Thr Asp Gly Phe Leu Phe Pro Thr Ala Glu Leu Lys 100 105 110

Lys Lys Asn Met Met Ser Arg Lys Gly Phe Pro Glu Ser Tyr Asp Val 115 120 125

Lys Ala Leu Leu Glu Phe Leu Asn Asp Leu Lys Ser Gly Lys Asp Ser 130 135 140

Val Lys Ala Pro Val Tyr Ser His Leu Thr Tyr Asp Arg Glu Glu Gly 145 150 155 160

Val Phe Glu Val Val Glu Gln Ala Asp Ile Val Ile Ile Glu Gly Ile 165 170 175

Asn Val Leu Gln Ser Pro Thr Leu Glu Asp Asp Arg Glu Asn Pro Arg 180 185 190

Ile Phe Val Ser Asp Phe Phe Asp Phe Ser Ile Tyr Val Asp Ala Glu 195 200 205

Glu Ser Arg Ile Phe Thr Trp Tyr Leu Glu Arg Phe Arg Leu Leu Arg 210 215 220

Glu Thr Ala Phe Gln Asn Pro Asp Ser Tyr Phe His Lys Phe Lys Asp 225 230 235 240

Leu Ser Asp Gln Glu Ala Asp Glu Met Ala Ala Ser Ile Trp Glu Ser 245 250 255

Val Asn Arg Pro Asn Leu Tyr Glu Asn Ile Leu Pro Thr Lys Phe Arg 260 265 270

Ser Asp Leu Ile Leu Arg Lys Gly Asp Gly His Lys Val Glu Glu Val 275 280 285

Leu Val Arg Arg Val

- 60 -

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<210> 61

<211> 281

<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

<400> 61

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Tyr Ile Pro Leu Val Arg Leu Leu His Leu His Val Lys Ser Ala Ala 20 25 30

Glu Arg Asn Lys His Val Asn Val Phe Leu Lys His Pro His Ser Ala 35 40 45

Lys Ile Pro Phe Ile Ile Gly Ile Ala Gly Ser Val Ala Val Gly Lys 50 55 60

Ser Thr Thr Ala Arg Ile Leu Gln Lys Leu Leu Ser Arg Leu Pro Asp 65 70 75 80

Arg Pro Lys Val Ser Leu Ile Thr Thr Asp Gly Phe Leu Phe Pro Thr 85 90 95

Ala Glu Leu Lys Lys Lys Asn Met Met Ser Arg Lys Gly Phe Pro Glu 100 105 110

Ser Tyr Asp Val Lys Ala Leu Leu Glu Phe Leu Asn Asp Leu Lys Ser 115 . 120 125

Gly Lys Asp Ser Val Lys Ala Pro Val Tyr Ser His Leu Thr Tyr Asp 130 135 140

Arg Glu Glu Gly Val Phe Glu Val Val Glu Gln Ala Asp Ile Val Ile 145 150 155 160

Ile Glu Gly Ile Asn Val Leu Gln Ser Pro Thr Leu Glu Asp Asp Arg 165 170 175

Glu Asn Pro Arg Ile Phe Val Ser Asp Phe Phe Asp Phe Ser Ile Tyr 180 185 190

Val Asp Ala Glu Glu Ser Arg Ile Phe Thr Trp Tyr Leu Glu Arg Phe 195 200 205

Arg Leu Leu Arg Glu Thr Ala Phe Gln Asn Pro Asp Ser Tyr Phe His 210 215 220

Lys Phe Lys Asp Leu Ser Asp Gln Glu Ala Asp Glu Met Ala Ala Ser 225 230 235 240

Ile Trp Glu Ser Val Asn Arg Pro Asn Leu Tyr Glu Asn Ile Leu Pro 245 250 255

Thr Lys Phe Arg Ser Asp Leu Ile Leu Arg Lys Gly Asp Gly His Lys

265

270

- 61 -

260

Val Glu Glu Val Leu Val Arg Arg Val 275 <210> 62 <211> 1092 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1089) <400> 62 atg act aaa caa aca att cgc gtt gaa ttg aca tca aca aaa aaa ccg Met Thr Lys Gln Thr Ile Arg Val Glu Leu Thr Ser Thr Lys Lys Pro aaa cca gac cca aat cag ctt tcg ttc gga aga gtg ttt aca gac cac 96 Lys Pro Asp Pro Asn Gln Leu Ser Phe Gly Arg Val Phe Thr Asp His 20 25 atg ttt gta atg gac tat gcc gca gat aaa ggt tgg tac gat cca aga 144 Met Phe Val Met Asp Tyr Ala Ala Asp Lys Gly Trp Tyr Asp Pro Arg 35 ate att cet tat caa cee tta tea atg gat cea act gea atg gte tat Ile Ile Pro Tyr Gln Pro Leu Ser Met Asp Pro Thr Ala Met Val Tyr 240 cac tac ggc caa acc gtg ttt gaa ggg tta aag gct tac gtg tca gag His Tyr Gly Gln Thr Val Phe Glu Gly Leu Lys Ala Tyr Val Ser Glu 288 gat gac cat gtt ctg ctt ttc aga ccg gaa aaa aat atg gaa cgc ctg Asp Asp His Val Leu Leu Phe Arg Pro Glu Lys Asn Met Glu Arg Leu aat caa tca aac gac cgc ctc tgc atc ccg caa att gat gaa gaa cag Asn Gln Ser Asn Asp Arg Leu Cys Ile Pro Gln Ile Asp Glu Gln 105 gtt ctt gaa ggc tta aag cag ctt gtc gca att gat aaa gac tgg att 384 Val Leu Glu Gly Leu Lys Gln Leu Val Ala Ile Asp Lys Asp Trp Ile 120 cca aat gcg gag ggc acg tcc ctt tac atc cgt ccg ttc atc atc gca 432 Pro Asn Ala Glu Gly Thr Ser Leu Tyr Ile Arg Pro Phe Ile Ile Ala 130 135 acc gag cct ttc ctt ggt gtt gcg gca tct cat acg tat aag ctc ttg 480 Thr Glu Pro Phe Leu Gly Val Ala Ala Ser His Thr Tyr Lys Leu Leu 145 150 155 528 atc att ctt tct ccg gtc ggc tct tat tac aaa gaa ggc att aag ccg Ile Ile Leu Ser Pro Val Gly Ser Tyr Tyr Lys Glu Gly Ile Lys Pro

- 62 -

	165	170	175
	Val Glu Ser Glu	ett gtc cgt gcg gta a Phe Val Arg Ala Val 1 185	
		aac tat gct tca agc (Asn Tyr Ala Ser Ser 1 205	
		ett tot caa gta oto i Phe Ser Gln Val Leu i 220	
		gaa gtc gga agc atg a Glu Val Gly Ser Met i 235	
		aca ccg atg ctg aac o Thr Pro Met Leu Asn (250	
	Thr Arg Asn Ser	gtc atc gcc ttg ctt a /al Ile Ala Leu Leu 1 ?65	
	-	att gcg atc gat gag o Ile Ala Ile Asp Glu v 285	-
_		gaa gcc ttc gga aca q Glu Ala Phe Gly Thr (300	
		etg atc tgg cag gat o Leu Ile Trp Gln Asp (315	_
_		gaa atc gca aaa aaa d Glu Ile Ala Lys Lys 1 330	_
	Ile Gln Lys Gly A	gct gtc gca gac gaa t Ala Val Ala Asp Glu 1 845	
	gca gcg ctg act o Ala Ala Leu Thr O 360		1092

<210> 63

<400> 63

Met Thr Lys Gln Thr Ile Arg Val Glu Leu Thr Ser Thr Lys Lys Pro

<211> 363

<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

- 63 -

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Met	Phe	Val 35	Met	Asp	Tyr	Ala	Ala 40	Asp	Lys	Gly	Trp	Tyr 45	Asp	Pro	Arg
Ile	Ile 50	Pro	Tyr	Gln	Pro	Leu 55	Ser	Met	Asp	Pro	Thr 60	Ala	Met	Val	Туг
His 65	Tyr	Gly	Gln	Thr	Val 70	Phe	Glu	Gly	Leu	Lys 75	Ala	Tyr	Val	Ser	Glu 80
Asp	Asp	His	Val	Leu 85	Leu	Phe	Arg	Pro	Glu 90	Lys	Asn	Met	Glu	Arg 95	Leu
Asn	Gln	Ser	Asn 100	Asp	Arg	Leu	Cys	Ile 105	Pro	Gln	Ile	Asp	Glu 110	Glu	Glr
Val	Leu	Glu 115	Gly	Leu	Lys	Gln	Leu 120	Val	Ala	Ile	Asp	Lys 125	Asp	Trp	Ile
Pro	Asn 130	Ala	Glu	Gly	Thr	Ser 135	Leu	Tyr	Ile	Arg	Pro 140	Phe	Ile	Ile	Ala
Thr 145	Glu	Pro	Phe	Leu	Gly 150	Val	Ala	Ala	Ser	His 155	Thr	Tyr	lys	Leu	Leu 160
Ile	Ile	Leu	Ser	Pro 165	Val	Gly	Ser	Tyr	Tyr 170	Lys	Glu	Gly	Ile	Lys 175	Pro
Val	Lys	Ile	Ala 180	Val	Glu	Ser	Glu	Phe 185	Val	Arg	Ala	Val	Lys 190	Gly	Gly
Thr	Gly	Asn 195	Ala	Lys	Thr	Ala	Gly 200	Asn	Tyr	Ala	Ser	Ser 205	Leu	Lys	Ala
Gln	Gln 210	Val	Ala	Glu	Glu	Lys 215	Gly	Phe	Ser	Gln	Val 220	Leu	Trp	Leu	Asp
Gly 225	Ile	Glu	Lys	Lys	Tyr 230	Ile	Glu	Glu	Val	Gly 235	Ser	Met	Asn	Ile	Phe 240
Phe	Lys	Ile	Asn	Gly 245	Glu	Ile	Val	Thr	Pro 250	Met	Leu	Asn	Gly	Ser 255	Ile
Leu	Glu	Gly	Ile 260	Thr	Arg	Asn	Ser	Val 265	Ile	Ala	Leu	Leu	Lys 270	His	Trp
Gly	Leu	Gln 275	Val	Ser	Glu	Arg	Lys 280	Ile	Ala	Ile	Asp	Glu 285	Val	Ile	Glr
Ala	His 290	Lys	Asp	Gly	Ile	Leu 295	Glu	Glu	Ala	Phe	Gly 300	Thr	Gly	Thr	Ala
Ala 305	Val	Ile	Ser	Pro	Val 310	Gly	Glu	Leu	Ile	Trp 315	Gln	Asp	Glu	Thr	Let 320

- 64 -

Ser Ile Asn Asn Gly Glu Thr Gly Glu Ile Ala Lys Lys Leu Tyr Asp 325 330 Thr Ile Thr Gly Ile Gln Lys Gly Ala Val Ala Asp Glu Phe Gly Trp Thr Thr Glu Val Ala Ala Leu Thr Glu Ser Lys <210> 64 <211> 1071 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1068) ttg aat aag ctt att gaa cga gaa aaa act gta tat tat aag gaa aag 48 Met Asn Lys Leu Ile Glu Arg Glu Lys Thr Val Tyr Tyr Lys Glu Lys ccc gac ccg tct tcc ttg ggg ttt gga caa tat ttt aca gat tat atg Pro Asp Pro Ser Ser Leu Gly Phe Gly Gln Tyr Phe Thr Asp Tyr Met 20 25 30 144 ttt gtg atg gac tac gaa gag ggg att gga tgg cat cat ccg aga att Phe Val Met Asp Tyr Glu Glu Gly Ile Gly Trp His His Pro Arg Ile gcg ccg tac gca ccg ctt acg ctt gat ccg tct tca tct gtt ttt cat 192 Ala Pro Tyr Ala Pro Leu Thr Leu Asp Pro Ser Ser Ser Val Phe His 50 55 tac ggc cag gct gtt ttt gaa gga tta aaa gca tac aga aca gac gac 240 Tyr Gly Gln Ala Val Phe Glu Gly Leu Lys Ala Tyr Arg Thr Asp Asp 65 70 ggc agg gtg ctg ctg ttc cgt ccg gat caa aat atc aaa cgg ctg aac 288 Gly Arg Val Leu Leu Phe Arg Pro Asp Gln Asn Ile Lys Arg Leu Asn 85 90 aga tcg tgt gag cgc atg agc atg ccc cct tta gac gaa gag ctg gtg 336 Arg Ser Cys Glu Arg Met Ser Met Pro Pro Leu Asp Glu Glu Leu Val 100 ctt gag gca ttg acg caa tta gtt gag ctg gag aaa gat tgg gtt cca 384 Leu Glu Ala Leu Thr Gln Leu Val Glu Leu Glu Lys Asp Trp Val Pro 115 120 aag gaa aaa gga acg tca ctg tat att cgt cct ttt gtc att gcc aca 432 Lys Glu Lys Gly Thr Ser Leu Tyr Ile Arg Pro Phe Val Ile Ala Thr 130 135

gaa ccg agt ctc ggt gtg aag gca tcc agg agc tat aca ttt atg atc

480

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Glu 145	Pro	Ser	Leu	Gly	Val 150	Lys	Ala	Ser	Arg	Ser 155	Tyr	Thr	Phe	Met	11e 160	
							tat Tyr									528
							gag Glu									576
							gga Gly 200									624
					-	-	ggc Gly		-	_	_	-		_	_	672
							gaa Glu	-	_		-	-				720
	-				_	-	gtc Val			-		-		-		768
	-		-		_		tct Ser			-	-		_	-		816
		_	-	-	-	-	aga Arg 280		-		_					864
							aca Thr			Phe						912
_	-	-	_		_		gaa Glu							_		960
							ggg Gly									1008
							ggc Gly									1056
	gtg Val		gtg Val	tga												1071

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<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

<400> 65

WO 01/21772

Met Asn Lys Leu Ile Glu Arg Glu Lys Thr Val Tyr Tyr Lys Glu Lys 1 5 10 15

PCT/US00/25993

Pro Asp Pro Ser Ser Leu Gly Phe Gly Gln Tyr Phe Thr Asp Tyr Met 20 25 30

Phe Val Met Asp Tyr Glu Glu Gly Ile Gly Trp His His Pro Arg Ile 35 40 45

Ala Pro Tyr Ala Pro Leu Thr Leu Asp Pro Ser Ser Ser Val Phe His 50 55 60

Tyr Gly Gln Ala Val Phe Glu Gly Leu Lys Ala Tyr Arg Thr Asp Asp 65 70 75 80

Gly Arg Val Leu Leu Phe Arg Pro Asp Gln Asn Iie Lys Arg Leu Asn \cdot 85 90 95

Arg Ser Cys Glu Arg Met Ser Met Pro Pro Leu Asp Glu Glu Leu Val 100 105 110

Leu Glu Ala Leu Thr Gln Leu Val Glu Leu Glu Lys Asp Trp Val Pro 115 120 125

Lys Glu Lys Gly Thr Ser Leu Tyr Ile Arg Pro Phe Val Ile Ala Thr 130 135 140

Glu Pro Ser Leu Gly Val Lys Ala Ser Arg Ser Tyr Thr Phe Met Ile 145 150 155 160

Val Leu Ser Pro Val Gly Ser Tyr Tyr Gly Asp Asp Gln Leu Lys Pro 165 170 175

Val Arg Ile Tyr Val Glu Asp Glu Tyr Val Arg Ala Val Asn Gly Gly
180 185 190

Val Gly Phe Ala Lys Thr Ala Gly Asn Tyr Ala Ala Ser Leu Gln Ala 195 200 205

Gln Arg Lys Ala Asn Glu Leu Gly Tyr Asp Gln Val Leu Trp Leu Asp 210 215 220

Ala Ile Glu Lys Lys Tyr Val Glu Glu Val Gly Ser Met Asn Ile Phe 225 230 235 240

Phe Val Ile Asn Gly Glu Ala Val Thr Pro Ala Leu Ser Gly Ser Ile 245 250 255

Leu Ser Gly Val Thr Arg Ala Ser Ala Ile Glu Leu Ile Arg Ser Trp 260 265 270

Gly Ile Pro Val Arg Glu Glu Arg Ile Ser Ile Asp Glu Val Tyr Ala 275 280 285

- 67 **-**

Ala Ser Ala Arg Gly Glu Leu Thr Glu Val Phe Gly Thr Gly Thr Ala Ala Val Val Thr Pro Val Gly Glu Leu Asn Ile His Gly Lys Thr Val Ile Val Gly Asp Gly Gln Ile Gly Asp Leu Ser Lys Lys Leu Tyr Glu 330 Thr Ile Thr Asp Ile Gln Leu Gly Lys Val Lys Gly Pro Phe Asn Trp Thr Val Glu Val 355 <210> 66 <211> 1428 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1425) <400> 66 atg tta aac ggc caa aaa gaa tat cgc gtg gaa aaa gac ttc ctt ggg Met Leu Asn Gly Gln Lys Glu Tyr Arg Val Glu Lys Asp Phe Leu Gly gaa aaa caa att gaa gca gat gtt tat tac gga att cag acg ctc cgt 96 Glu Lys Gln Ile Glu Ala Asp Val Tyr Tyr Gly Ile Gln Thr Leu Arg get tet gaa aat ttt eeg ate aca gga tae aaa ate eat gag gaa atg 144 Ala Ser Glu Asn Phe Pro Ile Thr Gly Tyr Lys Ile His Glu Glu Met att aac gca ctg gcg att gtg aaa aaa gct gcg gct ctt gcc aac atg 192 Ile Asn Ala Leu Ala Ile Val Lys Lys Ala Ala Leu Ala Asn Met gac gtg aaa cgg ctg tat gaa gga att ggc caa gct atc gta caa gcc 240 Asp Val Lys Arg Leu Tyr Glu Gly Ile Gly Gln Ala Ile Val Gln Ala 288 gct gac gag att ctg gaa ggc aag tgg cac gat cag ttt atc gtc gat Ala Asp Glu Ile Leu Glu Gly Lys Trp His Asp Gln Phe Ile Val Asp 90 ccg att cag ggc ggt gcc gga act tct atg aac atg aac gcg aat gag 336 Pro Ile Gln Gly Gly Ala Gly Thr Ser Met Asn Met Asn Ala Asn Glu 384 gtt atc gga aac cgg gcg ctt gaa atc atg gga cat aaa aag gga gat Val Ile Gly Asn Arg Ala Leu Glu Ile Met Gly His Lys Lys Gly Asp 115 120

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				-							atg Met 140		_		-	432
	_			-		_					aca Thr	-	_			480
_		_	-			_	-	-	_		agt Ser	-				528
	-	_					-			_	ggc Gly					576
											ttc Phe					624
											caa Gln 220					672
_		-	-		-		_		-	-	ggt Gly			-		720
_	-		-				•	-	-	-	cac His		-	_	att Ile	768
											gtt Val					816
											tta Leu					864
-		-	Ser	Lys		Ăla	Asn	Asp	Leu	-	tta Leu 300	_		_		912
											gca Ala					960
											atg Met					1008
											aat Asn					1056
											atg Met					1104

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355		360		365	
			Ser Ile Met A	aac aac ggc tto Asn Asn Gly Phe 880	
		s Leu Lys G		gcc aac gaa aag Ala Asn Glu Lys	
				atc aca gct gto le Thr Ala Val 415	Asn
_		ı Ala Ala A		gcc agg gaa gca Ma Arg Glu Ala 430	
	Gln Ser Va			eag cat gat gtg Sln His Asp Val 445	
			Leu Asn Pro T	at gag atg acc Yr Glu Met Thr 160	
cca ggt atc Pro Gly Ile 465		s Glu Leu L	ta gaa aaa t eu Glu Lys 475	aa	1428
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1	5 The Chy Al-	n New Val T	10	lo Cla Tha Lou	
Gru Lys Gin	20	=	25	le Gln Thr Leu 30	Arg
Ala Ser Glu 35	Asn Phe Pro	Ile Thr G	ly Tyr Lys I	le His Glu Glu 45	Met
Ile Asn Ala 50	Leu Ala Ile	e Val Lys L 55	-	la Leu Ala Asn 60	Met
Asp Val Lys 65	Arg Leu Ty		le Gly Gln A 75	la Ile Val Gln	Ala 80
Ala Asp Glu	Ile Leu Glu 85	Gly Lys T	rp His Asp G 90	ln Phe Ile Val 95	Asp
Pro Ile Gln	Gly Gly Ala		er Met Asn M 05	et Asn Ala Asn 110	Glu

Val Ile Gly Asn Arg Ala Leu Glu Ile Met Gly His Lys Lys Gly Asp 120 Tyr Ile His Leu Ser Pro Asn Thr His Val Asn Met Ser Gln Ser Gln Asn Asp Val Phe Pro Thr Ala Ile His Ile Ser Thr Leu Lys Leu Leu 150 Glu Lys Leu Leu Lys Thr Met Glu Asp Met His Ser Val Phe Lys Gln Lys Ala Gln Glu Phe His Ser Val Ile Lys Met Gly Arg Thr His Leu Gln Asp Ala Val Pro Ile Arg Leu Gly Gln Glu Phe Glu Ala Tyr Ser 200 Arg Val Leu Glu Arg Asp Ile Lys Arg Ile Lys Gln Ser Arg Gln His 215 Leu Tyr Glu Val Asn Met Gly Ala Thr Ala Val Gly Thr Gly Leu Asn Ala Asp Pro Glu Tyr Ile Lys Gln Val Val Lys His Leu Ala Asp Ile Ser Gly Leu Pro Leu Val Gly Ala Asp His Leu Val Asp Ala Thr Gln 265 . Asn Thr Asp Ala Tyr Thr Glu Val Ser Ala Ser Leu Lys Val Cys Met Met Asn Met Ser Lys Ile Ala Asn Asp Leu Arg Leu Met Ala Ser Gly Pro Arg Ala Gly Leu Ala Glu Ile Ser Leu Pro Ala Arg Gln Pro Gly 315 Ser Ser Ile Met Pro Gly Lys Val Asn Pro Val Met Ala Glu Leu Ile 330 Asn Gln Ile Ala Phe Gln Val Ile Gly Asn Asp Asn Thr Ile Cys Leu 345 Ala Ser Glu Ala Gly Gln Leu Glu Leu Asn Val Met Glu Pro Val Leu Val Phe Asn Leu Leu Gln Ser Ile Ser Ile Met Asn Asn Gly Phe Arg Ser Phe Thr Asp Asn Cys Leu Lys Gly Ile Glu Ala Asn Glu Lys Arg Met Lys Gln Tyr Val Glu Lys Ser Ala Gly Val Ile Thr Ala Val Asn Pro His Leu Gly Tyr Glu Ala Ala Ala Arg Ile Ala Arg Glu Ala Ile

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420 425 430 Met Thr Gly Gln Ser Val Arg Asp Leu Cys Leu Gln His Asp Val Leu 440 Thr Glu Glu Glu Leu Asp Ile Ile Leu Asn Pro Tyr Glu Met Thr Lys Pro Gly Ile Ala Gly Lys Glu Leu Leu Glu Lys 470 <210> 68 <211> 768 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(765) <400> 68 atg aaa cga gaa agc aac att caa gtg ctc agc cgt ggt caa aaa gat Met Lys Arg Glu Ser Asn Ile Gln Val Leu Ser Arg Gly Gln Lys Asp cag cct gtg agc cag att tat caa gta tca aca atg act tct cta tta Gln Pro Val Ser Gln Ile Tyr Gln Val Ser Thr Met Thr Ser Leu Leu gac gga gta tat gac gga gat ttt gaa ctg tca gag att ccg aaa tat 144 Asp Gly Val Tyr Asp Gly Asp Phe Glu Leu Ser Glu Ile Pro Lys Tyr gga gac ttc ggt atc gga acc ttt aac aag ctt gac gga gag ctg att 192 . Gly Asp Phe Gly Ile Gly Thr Phe Asn Lys Leu Asp Gly Glu Leu Ile 55 ggg ttt gac ggc gaa ttt tac cgt ctt cgc tca gac gga acc gcg aca 240 Gly Phe Asp Gly Glu Phe Tyr Arg Leu Arg Ser Asp Gly Thr Ala Thr ccg gtc caa aat gga gac cgt tca ccg ttc tgt tca ttt acg ttc ttt 288 Pro Val Gln Asn Gly Asp Arg Ser Pro Phe Cys Ser Phe Thr Phe Phe aca ccg gac atg acg cac aaa att gat gcg aaa atg aca cgc gaa gac 336 Thr Pro Asp Met Thr His Lys Ile Asp Ala Lys Met Thr Arg Glu Asp ttt gaa aaa gag atc aac agc atg ctg cca agc aga aac tta ttt tat 384 Phe Glu Lys Glu Ile Asn Ser Met Leu Pro Ser Arg Asn Leu Phe Tyr gca att cgc att gac gga ttg ttt aaa aag gtg cag aca aga aca gta 432 Ala Ile Arg Ile Asp Gly Leu Phe Lys Lys Val Gln Thr Arg Thr Val 130 135

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gaa ctt caa Glu Leu Gl: 145													480
cag ccg att Gln Pro Ile		n Phe											528
ttg aca cca Leu Thr Pro													576
cac ttc att His Phe Ile 195	Asp Gl												624 `
gtg ctt gag Val Leu Glu 210													672
ctc aga ctt Leu Arg Leu 225													720 ·
cct gat ttt Pro Asp Phe		s Āsp		-			_		_		-	taa	768
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130 Glu Leu Gln Glu Lys Pro Tyr Val Pro Met Val Glu Ala Val Lys Thr Gln Pro Ile Phe Asn Phe Asp Asn Val Arg Gly Thr Ile Val Gly Phe Leu Thr Pro Ala Tyr Ala Asn Gly Ile Ala Val Ser Gly Tyr His Leu His Phe Ile Asp Glu Gly Arg Asn Ser Gly Gly His Val Phe Asp Tyr 200 Val Leu Glu Asp Cys Thr Val Thr Ile Ser Gln Lys Met Asn Met Asn . 215 220 Leu Arg Leu Pro Asn Thr Ala Asp Phe Phe Asn Ala Asn Leu Asp Asn 230 235 Pro Asp Phe Ala Lys Asp Ile Glu Thr Thr Glu Gly Ser Pro Glu <210> 70 <211> 1254 <212> DNA <213> Escherichia coli <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1251) . <400> 70 atg aca ttc tcc ctt ttt ggt gac aaa ttt acc cgc cac tcc ggc att Met Thr Phe Ser Leu Phe Gly Asp Lys Phe Thr Arg His Ser Gly Ile acg ctg ttg atg gaa gat ctg aac gac ggt tta cgc acg cct ggc gcg 96 Thr Leu Leu Met Glu Asp Leu Asn Asp Gly Leu Arg Thr Pro Gly Ala att atg ctc ggc ggt ggt aat ccg gcg cag atc ccg gaa atg cag gac 144 Ile Met Leu Gly Gly Asn Pro Ala Gln Ile Pro Glu Met Gln Asp tac ttc cag acg cta ctg acc gac atg ctg gaa agt ggc aaa gcg act 192 Tyr Phe Gln Thr Leu Leu Thr Asp Met Leu Glu Ser Gly Lys Ala Thr gat gca ctg tgt aac tac gac ggt cca cag ggg aaa acg gag cta ctc 240 Asp Ala Leu Cys Asn Tyr Asp Gly Pro Gln Gly Lys Thr Glu Leu Leu aca ctg ctt gcc gga atg ctg cgc gag aag ttg ggt tgg gat atc gaa 288 Thr Leu Leu Ala Gly Met Leu Arq Glu Lys Leu Gly Trp Asp Ile Glu

Ala Ile Arg Ile Asp Gly Leu Phe Lys Lys Val Gln Thr Arg Thr Val

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	٠			85					90					95		
cca Pro	_	aat Asn		-					-	_	_	-				336
tta Leu																384
gtg Val	_		_		-	_	-					_	-			432
ctg Leu 145	-	-	_	_		-			_	_			-	_	-	480
ccg Pro																528
ggc Gly	-	•			-		-	-			-	_				576
ggc Gly		gtg Val 195			_	-		_		_		-		_		624
aat Asn																672
ttc Phe 225																720
atc Ile																768
tgc Cys		att Ile			_		_					_				816
atg Met					-	_	_						_		_	864
atg Met																912
gtc Val 305																960

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	cgc Arg															1008
	gcc Ala															1056
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	cac His 370															1152
	tgt Cys															1200
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Ile	Met	Leu 35	Gly	Gly	Gly	Asn	Pro 40	Ala	Gln	Ile	Pro	Glu 45	Met	Gln	Asp	
Tyr	Phe 50	Gln	Thr	Leu	Leu	Thr 55	Asp	Met	Leu	Glu	Ser 60	Gly	Lys	Ala	Thr	
Asp 65	Ala	Leu	Cys	Asn	Tyr 70	Asp	Gly	Pro	Gln	Gly 75	Lys	Thr	Glu	Leu	Leu 80	
Thr	Leu	Leu	Ala	Gly 85	Met	Leu	Arg	Glu	Lys 90	Leu	Gly	Trp	Asp	Ile 95	Glu	
Pro	Gln	Asn	Ile 100	Ala	Leu	Thr	Asn	Gly 105	Ser	Gln	Ser	Ala	Phe 110	Phe	Tyr	
Leu	Phe	Asn 115	Leu	Phe	Ala	Gly	Arg 120	Arg	Ala	Asp	Gly	Arg 125	Val	Lys	Lys	

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Val Leu Phe Pro Leu Ala Pro Glu Tyr Ile Gly Tyr Ala Asp Ala Gly 135 Leu Glu Glu Asp Leu Phe Val Ser Ala Arg Pro Asn Ile Glu Leu Leu Pro Glu Gly Gln Phe Lys Tyr His Val Asp Phe Glu His Leu His Ile Gly Glu Glu Thr Gly Met Ile Cys Val Ser Arg Pro Thr Asn Pro Thr Gly Asn Val Ile Thr Asp Glu Glu Leu Leu Lys Leu Asp Ala Leu Gly Asn Gln His Gly Ile Pro Leu Val Ile Asp Asn Ala Tyr Gly Val Pro Phe Pro Gly Ile Ile Phe Ser Glu Ala Arg Pro Leu Trp Asn Pro Asn 230 235 Ile Val Leu Cys Met Ser Leu Ser Lys Leu Gly Leu Pro Gly Ser Arg 245 Cys Gly Ile Ile Ile Ala Asn Glu Lys Ile Ile Thr Ala Ile Thr Asn Met Asn Gly Ile Ile Ser Leu Ala Pro Gly Gly Ile Gly Pro Ala: Met Met Cys Glu Met Ile Lys Arg Asn Asp Leu Leu Arg Leu Ser Glu Thr Val Ile Lys Pro Phe Tyr Tyr Gln Arg Val Gln Glu Thr Ile Ala Ile Ile Arg Arg Tyr Leu Pro Glu Asn Arg Cys Leu Ile His Lys Pro Glu 330 Gly Ala Ile Phe Leu Trp Leu Trp Phe Lys Asp Leu Pro Ile Thr Thr Lys Gln Leu Tyr Gln Arg Leu Lys Ala Arg Gly Val Leu Met Val Pro 360 Gly His Asn Phe Phe Pro Gly Leu Asp Lys Pro Trp Pro His Thr His Gln Cys Met Arg Met Asn Tyr Val Pro Glu Pro Glu Lys Ile Glu Ala 390 395 Gly Val Lys Ile Leu Ala Glu Glu Ile Glu Arg Ala Trp Ala Glu Ser 405 410 415

His

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<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

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<400> 72

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Asp Tyr Leu Gly Gly Ala Ile Cys Pro Gly Ile Lys Val Ser Ser Glu 165 170 175

Ala Leu Phe Glu Lys Ala Ala Lys Leu Pro Arg Val Glu Leu Ile Lys 180 185 190

Pro Ala Tyr Ala Ile Cys Lys Asn Thr Ile Ser Ser Ile Gln Ser Gly 195 200 205

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- 88 -

Ile Val Tyr Arg Tyr Leu Arg Gln Val Lys Tyr Leu Phe Glu Lys Leu 210 215 220

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Leu Lys Gly Leu Gln Gly Arg Ile Ser Glu Ala Ile Ile Ser Ser Thr 50 55 60

Ala Pro Arg Val Val Phe Asn Leu Arg Val Leu Cys Asn Arg Tyr Phe 65 70 75 8C

Asp Cys Arg Pro Tyr Val Val Gly Lys Pro Gly Cys Glu Leu Pro Val 85 90 95

Ala Pro Arg Val Asp Pro Gly Thr Thr Val Gly Pro Asp Arg Leu Val 100 105 110

Asn Thr Val Ala Gly Tyr Asp Arg His Gly Gly Asp Leu Ile Val Val 115 120 125

Asp Phe Gly Thr Ala Thr Thr Phe Asp Val Val Ala Pro Asp Gly Ala 130 135 140

Tyr Ile Gly Gly Val Ile Ala Pro Gly Val Asn Leu Ser Leu Glu Ala 145 150 155 160

Leu His Met Ala Ala Ala Leu Pro His Val Asp Val Thr Lys Pro 165 170 175

Gln Gly Val Ile Gly Thr Asn Thr Val Ala Cys Ile Gln Ser Gly Val 180 185 190

Tyr Trp Gly Tyr Ile Gly Leu Val Glu Gly Ile Val Arg Gln Ile Arg 195 200 205

Met Glu Arg Asp Arg Pro Met Lys Val Ile Ala Thr Gly Gly Leu Ala 210 215 220

- 89 -

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Ser Leu Phe Asp Leu Gly Phe Asp Leu Phe Asp Lys Val Glu Asp Asp 225 235 240

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<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

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<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Recombinant pAN443 plasmid

<400> 80

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<210> 80

<211> 4450

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

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<210> 81

<211> 10212

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Recombinant
pAN251 plasmid

<400> 81

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<210> 82

<211> 10426

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Recombinant pAN267 plasmid

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<210> 83

<211> 4191

<212> DNA

<213> Artificial Sequence

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PCT/US00/25993

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His	Lys	Thr 35	Glu	Asp	Glu	Phe	Gly 40	Met	Ile	Leu	Arg	Ser 45	Leu	Phe	Asp	
His	Ser 50	Gly	Leu	Met	Phe	Glu 55	Gln	Ile	Asp	Gly	Ile 60	Ile	Ile	Ser	Ser	
Val 65	Val	Pro	Pro	Ile	Met 70	Phe	Ala	Leu	Glu	Arg 75	Met	Cys	Thr	Lys	Tyr 80	
Phe	His	Ile	Glu	Pro 85	Gln	Ile	Val	Gly	Pro 90	Gly	Met	Lys	Thr	Gly 95	Leu	
Asn	Ile	Lys	Tyr 100	Asp	Asn	Pro	Lys	Glu 105	Val	Gly	Ala	Asp	Arg 110	Ile	Val	
Asn	Ala	Val 115	Ala	Ala	Ile	His	Leu 120	Tyr	Gly	Asn	Pro	Leu 125	Ile	Val	Val	
Asp	Phe 130	Gly	Thr	Ala	Thr	Thr 135	Tyr	Cys	Tyr	Ile	Asp 140	Glu	Asn	Lys	Gln	
Tyr 145	Met	Gly	Gly	Ala	Ile 150	Ala	Pro	Gly	Ile	Thr 155	Ile	Ser	Thr	Glu	Ala 160	

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Leu Tyr Ser Arg Ala Ala Lys Leu Pro Arg Ile Glu Ile Thr Arg Pro Asp Asn Ile Ile Gly Lys Asn Thr Val Ser Ala Met Gln Ser Gly Ile Leu Phe Gly Tyr Val Gly Gln Val Glu Gly Ile Val Lys Arg Met Lys 200 Trp Gln Ala Lys Gln Asp Pro Arg Ser Leu Arg Gln Glu Ala Trp Arg 215 220 Arg Ser Leu Arg Thr Asn Gln Ile Val 230 . <210> 86 <211> 1623 <212> DNA <213> Bacillus subtilis <220> <221> CDS <222> (1)..(1620) atg tat ttg gca ttc cag gtg caa aaa ttg atg cgg tat ttg acg ctt Met Tyr Leu Ala Phe Gln Val Gln Lys Leu Met Arg Tyr Leu Thr Leu 1 tac aag ata aag gac ctg aaa tta tcg ttg ccc ggc acg aac aaa acg 96 Tyr Lys Ile Lys Asp Leu Lys Leu Ser Leu Pro Gly Thr Asn Lys Thr 20 cag caa ttc atg gcc caa gca gtc ggc cgt tta act gga aaa ccg gga Gln Gln Phe Met Ala Gln Ala Val Gly Arg Leu Thr Gly Lys Pro Gly 35 gtc gtg tta gtc aca tca gga ccg ggt gcc tct aac ttg gca aca ggc 192 Val Val Leu Val Thr Ser Gly Pro Gly Ala Ser Asn Leu Ala Thr Gly 50 55 ctg ctg aca gcg aac act gaa gga gac cct gtc gtt gcg ctt gct gga 240 Leu Leu Thr Ala Asn Thr Glu Gly Asp Pro Val Val Ala Leu Ala Gly 65 aac gtg atc cgt gca tat cgt tta aaa cgg aca cat caa tct ttg gat Asn Val Ile Arg Ala Tyr Arg Leu Lys Arg Thr His Gln Ser Leu Asp 85 336 aat gcg gcg cta ttc cag ccg att aca aaa tac agt gta gaa gtt caa Asn Ala Ala Leu Phe Gln Pro Ile Thr Lys Tyr Ser Val Glu Val Gln 100 gat gta aaa aat ata ccg gaa gct gtt aca aat gca ttt agg ata gcg Asp Val Lys Asn Ile Pro Glu Ala Val Thr Asn Ala Phe Arg Ile Ala 115 120 tca gca ggg cag gct ggg gcc gct ttt gtg agc ttt ccg caa gat gtt

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								gca Ala								528
								gtt Val 185								576
-	_	_	_				_	cgc Arg	•		_		_	-	-	624
			_	_				gct Ala	-					-	-	672
							-	atc Ile		_		_		-		720
	-		_			_	-	gat Asp	_	-	_	_				768
-	_		-		_	_		ttc Phe 265						-		816
								atc Ile								864
_		-		-				gac Asp		_		-				912
								gaa Glu								960
			-					atg Met		_			_			1008
_	-				-	-		cac His 345			-		-			1056
_	_		-	-	-	-		gtt Val		-		_	-			1104

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_					-					-	_		-	ccg Pro		1152
				-			_					-	-	ctt Leu		1200
	-			-		-			-		-			gtt Val 415		1248
-			-							-	-	-		gag Glu		1296
-	-	-			•			-			-			gac Asp	-	1344
•		-	-				_		_					cgt Arg		1392
		-	_					_					•	gaa Glu	-	1440
		_			-	-	•	-			-	_	-	gca Ala 495	_	1488
_	_	_			_			_			-			gat Asp	_	1536
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<212> PRT

<213> Bacillus subtilis

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Ala Asp Trp Lys Ser Asp Arg Ala His Pro Leu Glu Ile Val Lys Glu

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Leu	Arg	Asn 355	Ala	Val	Asp	Asp	His 360	Val	Thr	Val	Thr	Cys 365	Asp	Ile	Gly
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Thr 385	Leu	Met	Ile	Ser	Asn 390	Gly	Met	Gln	Thr	Leu 395	Gly	Val	Ala	Leu	Pro 400
Trp	Ala	Ile	Gly	Ala 405	Ser	Leu	Val	Lys	Pro 410	Gly	Glu	Lys	Val	Val 415	Ser
Val	Ser	Gly	Asp 420	Gly	Gly	Phe	Leu	Phe 425	Ser	Ala	Met	Glu	Leu 430	Glu	Thr
Ala	Val	Arg 435	Leu	Lys	Ala	Pro	Ile 440	Val	His	Ile	Val ·	Trp 445	Asn	Asp	Ser
Thr	Tyr 450	Asp	Met	Val	His	Phe 455	Gln	Gln	Leu	Lys	Lys 460	Tyr	Asn	Arg	Thr
Ser 465	Ala	Val	Asp	Phe	Gly 470	Asn	Ile	Asp	Ile	Val 475	Lys	Tyr	Ala	Glu	Ser 480
Phe	Gly	Ala	Thr	Ala 485	Leu	Arg	Va J.	Glu	Ser 490	Pro	Asp	Gln	Leu	Ala 495	Asp
Val	Leu	Arg	Gln 500	Gly	Met	Asn	Ala	Glu 505	Gly	Pro	Val	Ile	Ile 510	Asp	Val
Pro	Val	Asp 515	Tyr	Ser	Asp	Asn	Ile 520	Asn	Leu	Ala	Ser	Asp 525	Lys	Leu	Pro
Lys	Glu 530	Phe	Gly	Glu	Leu	Met 535	Lys	Thr	Lys	Ala	Leu 540				
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ttaagttggg taacgccagg gttttcccag tcacgacgtt gtaaaacgac ggccagtgaa 180
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PCT/US00/25993

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PCT/US00/25993

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